

## American pilots lost in helicopter and B52 crashes; marines killed by their own side

# Key artillery island falls to allied bombs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

BRITISH and American bombers have destroyed an important Iraqi artillery battery on an island 10 miles off Kuwait City, allied commanders said yesterday. Kuwaitis still living there would be the first to be liberated from Iraqi occupation.

Details of the successful raids were released as American officials admitted that seven, and possibly eight, marines had been killed by their own side near the Saudi border last week. Another two pilots died yesterday when their Cobra helicopter crashed and three men were missing after a B52 bomber went down in the Indian Ocean. Three others were rescued.

The artillery and anti-aircraft emplacement on the island of Faylaka posed a threat to allied warships and amphibious operations, Group Captain Niall Irving said in Riyadh. The raid had been carried out by RAF Jaguar GR1s armed with 1,000lb burst bombs, which

Blow up the uncovered battery. The Jaguars came under heavy fire, which was suppressed by American A6 Intruders called in from anti-ship combat patrol.

Group Captain Irving said Faylaka had a particular strategic value. "It's very important that it's in our hands. By clearing out the enemy from there, we may open another option that exists from the sea."

Seven of the marines killed during a series of Iraqi incursions last Tuesday died when a Maverick missile hit their light armoured vehicle, Major General Robert Johnston said last night. "Friendly fire" might also have killed an eighth and wounded two others, he said.

The general also disclosed that a Cobra helicopter on escort duty inside Saudi Arabia had crashed, killing its two crew members. A Saudi spokesman said the crash was not related to combat.

The B52 that went down yesterday was returning to its home base on Diego Garcia after a bombing mission. The Pentagon said there was no evidence that it had been shot

down by enemy fire. Rescuers pulled three of the six crew members from the sea and mounted a search for their colleagues, but held out little hope of retrieving the aircraft. The bomber was the first B52 to be lost in the war and the twentieth American aircraft to be reported lost or missing.

At least 99 Iraqi aircraft had been destroyed on the ground, General Johnston said, adding that that could be a low estimate because some of the hardened bunkers at Iraqi airfields held more than one plane. RAF bombing of the airfields had resumed after Iraqi attempts to repair runways. Group Captain Irving said. One in western Iraq was attacked early yesterday by eight Tornados, dropping 40 1,000lb bombs.

Allied bombers were continuing to hit Iraqi oil refineries, and 16 Tornados had "paid a visit" to a crude oil pumping station deep in Iraq. Ammunition stocks were also being attacked, and a dump at al Ahmadi, south of Kuwait City, was destroyed.

American planes patrolling over Iraq yesterday attacked two launching sites as soon as they showed their position by firing Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia. Explosions were seen at both sites. The Scud fired at Riyadh had been intercepted, but debris fell on a block of flats, wounding 29 people. The two missiles fired at Israel were said to have caused no significant damage or injury.

At least 40,000 soldiers since the start of the war and have "obliterated" the Iraqi navy, Group Captain Irving said. Movement among Iraqi forces in Kuwait was reduced to a minimum after the failed offensive last week, and he said it was difficult to guess what Iraqi commanders could do next.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday that he thought there was more than a 50 per cent chance that President Saddam Hussein would resort to chemical warfare. Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, said that if that happened, he would not rule out the use of nuclear weapons.



Pit-stop at 20,000ft: a US F16 fighter about to refuel from a KC135 tanker 30 miles from Kuwait yesterday. It took on 20,000lb of fuel in 70 seconds

## RSPCA to help rescue Gulf birds

By NICK NUTTALL

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT  
A TEAM of RSPCA wildlife experts with special expertise in treating animals contaminated by oil is to be flown to Saudi Arabia, it was announced yesterday.

Group Captain Niall Irving said in a briefing in Saudi Arabia that the RSPCA team would be sent to help with the oil slicks sweeping south down the Gulf from Kuwait.

The main slick was deliberately released by Iraqi forces into the Gulf last weekend. It has grown to more than 100 miles long and calmed beaches on Saudi Arabia's northeast coast.

There is a second slick, roughly half the size of the first, spreading from Iraq's Mina al-Bakr terminal, near the south-end of the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

A spokesman for the society confirmed yesterday that a team and equipment were being prepared to fly to polluted sites in Saudi Arabia. He said the RSPCA had approached both the Saudi Arabian and British governments offering help as soon as the magnitude of the oil pollution had become apparent.

The spokesman said the number of volunteers, their identities and departure dates still had to be confirmed. "We have tremendous expertise in this country at tackling the effects of oil pollution on wildlife," the spokesman added.

## More pressure for interest-rate cut as the recession worsens

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH evidence of deepening recession will today bring increased pressure on Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to cut interest rates well before budget day.

The intensity of the squeeze on home-buyers is plain in a report by Nationwide, the second biggest building society, which shows one mortgage-holder in ten in arrears, or having to renegotiate borrowings. According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders, a record 40,000 homes were repossessed last year, nearly twice the previous peak. Worse is expected, especially in the South-East, as lenders tighten up on defaulters.

The construction industry, one of the sectors hardest hit by the slowdown, wants the interest rate cut by two percentage points to help to avert a further slump. The latest survey from the Building Employers' Confederation shows two-thirds of building firms expecting business to worsen this year.

Gordon Brown, Opposition trade and industry spokesman, broadened the attack on government economic policy yesterday, accusing ministers of increasing the pressure on the corporate sector, which

was already struggling under the weight of an annual interest rate of 10 per cent.

The government was planning a 40 per cent reduction over the next two years in state backing for research and development, Mr Brown said. "As 500 companies go to the wall every week, ministers are imposing the double burden of cuts in research support vital to our long-term prosperity."

A Labour survey of unfilled positions at Jobcentres suggests that the sharp deterioration in the jobs market is penetrating into the Tory heartlands, while mortgage debts continue to trouble traditional Conservative voters. The survey revealed that London, East Anglia and the South-East saw the biggest falls in job vacancies over the past year. Managerial, secretarial, clerical and sales staff were among the hardest hit. Vacancies fell by 70,000, or 39 per cent, in 1990.

Tony Blair, the Opposition employment spokesman, described the slowdown as a "me and you" recession affecting Conservative voters, not "them and theirs", as in previous recessions. Pay deals continue to move ahead, a

report from Incomes Data Services (IDS), the pay analyst, indicates. The findings are bad news for the government, which has hoped for pay moderation as inflation falls.

The report says that three-quarters of current pay settlements are higher than comparable wage increases last year. That contrasts with the Confederation of British Industry's view that pay-deals are starting to show signs of coming down. IDS says the bulk of deals are still running at 9 to 11 per cent. It does, however, identify a "small but significant" body of deals substantially below the inflation rate.

Political and economic leaders meeting in Davos, Switzerland, at the weekend were generally optimistic about the economic outlook, seeing little danger of the recession in Britain and America spreading to the rest of the world. The government's commitment to the discipline of the European exchange rate mechanism has put Mr

Lamont in a straitjacket, leaving him unable to ease the monetary reins until the pound gains strength.

Surprise policy-tightening by Germany last week made sterling the weakest ERM currency, dashing hopes of an early cut in British interest rates. City forecasters believe the budget on March 19 will be the earliest opportunity for a cut, probably by one percentage point.

The prime minister last week vigorously rejected a demand from Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, for a cut in interest rates, arguing that they would only be lowered when inflation in Britain comes down closer to the level of its European competitors. The impact of the Gulf war on British industry has still to be fully assessed, but the construction industry fears that the effect will be damaging.

Tories jolted, page 6  
Pay deals, page 6  
Monetary tug of war, page 21

## Sentencing reform call

Labour is to revive demands for scrapping the minimum sentence for life, a spokesman said yesterday. Opposition Labour MPs have been seriously underestimated the number of MPs, and particularly peers, who now believe judges should be able to impose determinate or indeterminate jail terms for murder. Page 18

## Pop flop



When the best-selling single is a 20-year-old song from The Righteous Brothers (above), what is the future of pop music, still Britain's biggest leisure industry? Page 15

## Farm controls

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is expected to give local authorities the power to control the siting, design and construction of farm buildings, removing farmers' virtual freedom from planning control. Page 7

## Army accused

Stipe Mesic, the Croatian representative on the Yugoslav presidency, has accused the army of a "vicious campaign" to bring down Croatia's democratically elected government. Page 8

## Kaifu besieged

Japan's much-vaunted harmony has all but vanished from the Diet after Toshiki Kaifu's pledge last month to provide £4.6 billion in support for the multinational forces in the Gulf. Page 9

## Speedie start

David Speedie scored on his first appearance for Liverpool as the Football League champions drew 1-1 with Manchester United at Old Trafford yesterday. Page 34

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## Kuwaitis 'running out of food stock'

By ELAINE FOGG

FOOD shortages in occupied Kuwait City are being exacerbated by thieves looting shops, hoarding supplies, and non-existent supplies. A picture of markets without meat, fruit, vegetables, grains and flour, bakeries closed down by the Iraqi authorities, and garages out of petrol is painted in a detailed letter fixed out of Kuwait by satellite last night.

In the letter to senior Kuwaiti exiles in London, the sender, who must remain anonymous for his safety, made an appeal for help to the outside world on behalf of the Kuwaitis.

"The soldiers are busy digging and constructing as well as breaking into houses and

stealing, or harassing local citizens. Some Kuwaiti residents have reported that all the food they have managed to store for the past few months was completely taken away, and now they are left without food or money," he said.

"The case of people running out of food is becoming very common and the situation is becoming very desperate." Even those Kuwaitis with Iraqi money were unable to find food, he said, because it was seldom that private trucks would venture across the border from Iraq because of the anger and lack of fuel. The Iraqis, he said, "were not giving a damn about the

Continued on page 18, col 7

## Britain presses for an end to sanctions

By MICHAEL BRYNOR, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday that he would be pressing fellow community foreign ministers in Brussels today to remove remaining EC sanctions against South Africa. This follows President de Klerk's announcement on Friday of the forthcoming abolition of the key laws underpinning apartheid.

Speaking on BBC Radio's *The World This Weekend*, Mr Hurd said that it was agreed by the Twelve at their Rome summit in December to lift sanctions when the proposals put forward by Mr de Klerk had been tabled. "Now Presi-

dent de Klerk has moved on again. He has produced a very ambitious legislative programme," Mr Hurd said.

"We agreed in December when he did that, when legislation was tabled, we would move against the remaining sanctions. Tomorrow when I go to Brussels I will be urging that we do that."

Asked about the contention by Archbishop Desmond Tutu that the time to remove sanctions had not come, Mr Hurd replied: "What I heard was that they had to look at it."

Continued on page 18, col 1

De Klerk appeal, page 9

## Wealthiest women bank on their birthright

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A FOOL may soon be parted from his money, but rarely, it seems, is a woman. According to the latest list of the world's 20 richest women, their average age is more than 62 and they have spent a lifetime nurturing their wealth. With the exception of a German self-made millionairess they were born to money.

The exception is Grete Schickedanz, aged 78, of the Quelle mail-order chain who is the world's tenth richest woman. The survey is by *Harpers and Queen* magazine, which wins no prizes for listing the Queen as the world's richest woman with assets of £6,600 million. A frosty "no comment" was the response from Buckingham Palace yesterday when asked its view on the magazine's assertion that her personal wealth rose by 25 per cent. The top 20 are:

- 1 The Queen, aged 64, £6,600 million.
- 2 Johanna Quandt, aged 63, controls BMW car group, £2,600 million.
- 3 Imelda Marcos, aged 61, £1,500 million.
- 4 Anne Cox Chambers, aged 70, American publisher's daughter, £1,400 million.
- 5 Barbara Cox Anthony, aged 67, sister of Anne Chambers, £1,400 million.
- 6 Liliane Bettencourt, aged 67, French daughter of L'Oréal cosmetics entrepreneur, £1,300 million.
- 7 Jacqueline Mars Vogel, aged 51, American daughter of Mars Inc magnate, £1,200 million.
- 8 Alice L. Walton, aged 41, daughter of American discount retailer Sam Walton, £1,000 million.
- 9 Heidi Horton, aged 49, widow of German department store founder, £950 million.
- 10 Grete Schickedanz, aged 78, German self-made millionairess, £900 million.
- 11 Idina Gardini, aged 54, daughter of wealthy Italian businessman, wife of another, £850 million.
- 12 Madeleine Dassault, aged 89, widow of French aviator, £750 million.
- 13 Margaret Cargill, aged 70, daughter of grain trader, £550 million.
- 14 Alicia Koplowitz, aged 37, daughter of Spanish-based property tycoon, £500 million.
- 15 Esther Koplowitz, aged 39, sister of Alicia, £500 million.
- 16 Margaret Hunt Hill, aged 74, eldest daughter of oil baron, £550 million.
- 17 Princess Melinda Esterhazy, aged 69, widow of Austrian prince, £540 million.
- 18 Chantal Grundig, aged 41, widow of electronics magnate, £530 million.
- 19 Jean B. Kroc, aged 62, widow of McDonald's chief, £500 million.
- 20 Munemoto Matsushita, aged 98, widow of Japanese entrepreneur, £490 million.

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# Military men mask the truth about human costs of conflict

THERE is a sense of unreality about the level of casualties in the war so far. While it has to be assumed that the American and British figures released so far are accurate because in each country next of kin have to be informed, there is no clear picture of the deaths and injuries caused by the allied bombing of Iraq and Kuwait.

For his own reasons, President Saddam Hussein has adopted an ambivalent policy on casualties. On one hand, he has tried to focus the international media's attention on civilian casualties in Baghdad, taking television crews to hospitals where children are seen with bloodstained bandages, but without giving a total figure of dead and wounded across the country. On the other hand, there are few details of military casualties and not a glimpse of a wounded Iraqi soldier lying in a Baghdad hospital.

Casualties deliver a political message as well as a military one. Were Saddam to give a body

count, if that were possible, of Iraqi civilians and soldiers killed since January 17, he would risk alarming his own people. The truth is that nobody on either side has any real idea of the scale of the casualties.

While the television cameras have concentrated on Baghdad, since that is the only area in which they are allowed to operate, the allied bombing has been carried out in every part of the country. There is no official information on the scale of damage and casualties in Basra, for example. The southern Iraqi port, base of many Republican Guard divisions and Iraq's theatre of operations command headquarters, has been subjected to some of the heaviest bombing.

In every war, military commanders have sought to suppress casualty figures, inflating or underestimating them, to send the right message home or to apply psychological pressure on the opposition. Since the allied forces have so far faced only

Information about the human cost of the war has been confusing and will become even less reliable once the bloody ground campaign starts, Michael Evans writes

limited ground action and have escaped air bombardment from Iraq, apart from Scud missiles, the issue of casualties has not yet affected the politics of the war, at least not on the allied side. Since the number of lost air crews has been put at a minimum, the 11 marines killed in Khafji and the 14 Americans missing after their C-130 aircraft went down over Kuwait last week were the first real test of the American public's resilience.

The Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations claimed last week that the allied air campaign was genocide. Did he mean that thousands of Iraqis have been killed or injured, or was it just propaganda? There are confusing

claims, and not always from the Iraqis. In the battle for Khafji, for example, it was originally claimed by the allies that there were "hundreds" of Iraqi casualties. But the final toll, as far as one can say, was 30 dead and 37 wounded.

The Iraqis have been claiming that Tomahawk cruise missiles and bombs have laid waste to residential areas of Baghdad. Television crews, stepping over piles of rubble, have interviewed Iraqi families who lost their homes. Yet in the hospital scenes, there seemed a strange uniformity about the injured presented to the world as proof of civilian suffering. Several children had identical bandages and

chatted about their experiences. There is no evidence that Saddam is faking these hospital scenes. Western journalists taken to the hospitals would see through such a trick. But if there had been direct hits on homes and blocks of flats on the scale claimed by the Iraqis, would not Saddam have wanted to publicise the most gruesome cases of civilian suffering?

The way the issue of casualties is being played at this stage is important because the number of dead and wounded on both sides is going to increase dramatically when the allied ground offensive begins. Casualty figures will be treated by allied commanders as operationally sensitive informa-

tion. There will no longer be daily updates on the number of allied soldiers killed because that would provide useful information to the Iraqis and risk undermining the political will of the 28 countries taking part in the allied coalition.

Saddam has been careful to avoid any mention of the damage suffered by his elite Republican Guard divisions, who remain crucial to his strategy of driving back the allies when they advance into Kuwait. They have been bombed by B-52s and other strike aircraft for about ten days and nights. On one day, 76 B-52s dropped 1,240 tons of bombs on their entrenched positions around Basra.

No allied commander has been able to say what effect this has had on the Iraqi troops, other than to surmise that, even if not killed or wounded, they would be suffering from lack of sleep, disorientation and poor morale. But it is possible that such a concentration of bombing has not caused many casualties. Only

Saddam knows the answer and he is not telling. The allied forces will know only when the ground offensive begins. It is salutary to recall, however, that after receiving similar treatment in the first world war, the Germans emerged from their trenches with plenty of fight left in them.

Past wars hold another lesson. The most lethal the weapons have become, the greater the dispersion of frontline troops on the battlefield. According to Trevor Dupuy, an American military historian, an army of 100,000 men in the Napoleonic wars occupied an area about 12 square miles. By the time of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, the same number of men occupied more than 2,000 square miles. Saddam's Republican Guards are spread out so widely that even another three weeks of bombing may not produce the level of casualties which allied commanders would be seeking to inflict before advancing into Kuwait.

## ISRAEL UNDER FIRE

# Fantasy clouds West Bank perception of course of the war

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

FACT and fantasy have always been difficult to disentangle in the Middle East. More Iraqi Scud attacks on the occupied West Bank at the weekend had Israelis wondering if Iraq was for some devious reason trying to kill Palestinians, and bewildered Palestinians wildly accusing Israel of itself firing the missiles.

The Scud attacks on Saturday evening and again early yesterday came after three days of quiet. There were no casualties and little damage was done. The last four missiles launched over a period of a week, have all landed in or near the West Bank. "This is encouraging," the newspaper *Hadashot* said yesterday. "Something in the Iraqi ground-to-ground missile system has cracked. Those who launched the missiles are clearly anxious to get rid of them. Residents of Nablus and Jenin on the West Bank definitely have reason to worry."

One theory is that the Scuds are

being knocked off course by high winds. General Shomron angrily denied that Israel was deliberately allowing the missiles to land in Arab areas and was failing to use the Patriot anti-missile system. "This is an evil libel," he said. "Whoever started such stories has no idea what a Patriot is or how it works. It is a load of nonsense."

But Palestinians, their bitterness increased by the prolonged curfew and their concept of the war based on Iraqi information published in Palestinian newspapers, firmly believe that the missiles fall on the West Bank or are taking advantage of the fog of war to fire at Palestinian villages themselves.

Such is the Palestinian faith in propaganda put out by Baghdad that one woman in East Jerusalem claimed yesterday that half Tel Aviv had been razed by Iraqi missile salvos and "the Jews are hiding this".

Other stories circulating also feed this desperate desire among Palestinians for proof that the Israelis are being hurt. Palestinians are gratified by the Katyusha rocket attacks launched by the Palestine Liberation Organisation from southern Lebanon against northern Israel. But they are reluctant to hear that the rockets are only reaching Israel's "security zone" where the most likely victims are not Israelis but Shia Muslim villagers. According to United Nations sources, Amal, the Shia Muslim militia which tries to avoid provocations likely to lead to Israeli retaliation, is deeply angered by the apparently pointless PLO action. The real war, in

other words, is being accompanied by an Arab-Israeli war of perceptions. Israelis tend to share the Western judgment that Iraq's recent action at the Saudi border town of Khafji was a military disaster for Baghdad. But Zeev Schiff, the military commentator, noted yesterday in the newspaper *Haaretz* that Palestinians regard it as a famous psychological victory for Iraq.

Many Palestinians seem to believe stories, allegedly originating from Jordanian refugees, that "Hebrew-speaking" US commandos have been operating in western Iraq, ignoring the fact that even if US special units were blowing up Iraqi airfields, the last language they would be likely to speak is Hebrew. The fact that Saudi troops took the brunt of the fighting at Khafji does not impress Palestinians, who have no time for Saudi or Gulf Arabs.

As General Freddie Zach, Israel's deputy co-ordinator in the occupied territories, says: "It seems Palestinians still support Saddam Hussein despite the hardships and setbacks."

The United Nations Relief Works Agency said it had begun emergency food distribution to Palestinians to alleviate the "devastating effect" of the two weeks of curfew. But Palestinians said they were glad to suffer for Iraq, and they believed that Saddam would somehow carry out his threat to use a secret weapon to "scorch half of Israel".

"If I die too, I will be glad to be a martyr," a young Palestinian said. This dispatch is based on material passed for publication by the Israeli censor.



Prepared for attack: Blacher, left, and his brothers, Gideon and Matias, showing off their gas-mask kits in Tel Aviv. The boys take their kits everywhere in case of a chemical attack on Israel



## SADDAM'S FAMILY

# A tale of patronage, power and wealth

By HAZHEE TEIMOURIAN

THE case of President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Hussein Kamel al-Majid, who is expected to face charges of bribing American banking officials to extend \$3 billion (nearly £1.5 billion) in improper loans to Iraq, has focused attention on the Iraqi leader's family.

During the past two years Saddam has reduced his close circle of advisers to the male members of his immediate family, turning the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's ruling body, into a rubber-stamp body.

The most powerful members of his family are the following: Hussein Kamel al-Majid, son-in-law and distant cousin. He is in his early 30s and began his political career as one of Saddam's bodyguards. As minister of industry and military industrialisation, Kamel has organised industrial espionage in the West to acquire chemical and nuclear weapons. He is alleged to have bribed American

officials. He is also minister of petroleum and governor of Kuwait.

Ali Hassan al-Majid, a paternal first cousin, is known as "the gasser" for supervising the gas attack on the Kurdish city of Halabja in March 1988. He is 49 and described as "the ugliest face of Saddam". A former sergeant in the army, he obtained a first class degree in military science from the Al-Balr university in 1978, when Saddam was vice-president.

Barzan Takriti, a half-brother, is now Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations at Geneva. His unruly behaviour inside in the Baath party has caused many instances of embarrassment for Saddam. Uday Saddam Hussein, aged 30, the eldest son and chairman of the Iraqi Olympics Committee. In 1989 he was facing trial for the murder of Saddam's food taster, but was later released "by popular demand".

# Bombers inspire an ode to airmen

FROM LIN JENKINS WITH THE RAF IN THE GULF

A DELUGE of unsolicited mail from former girlfriends, old schoolmates, former servicemen and strangers is helping to pass the hours between sorties and exercise the writing talents of the airmen at the largest RAF detachment in the Gulf.

Many get replies and, according to Wing Commander John Broadbent, none has so much hinted at criticism. "It is terrific for morale. Some have even enclosed money saying buy the lads a drink."

In another, a 19-year-old girl sent a load of magazines, including one about steam trains, unaware that one of our pilots is a train nut.

When a poem from a former bomber and flight sergeant, Jasper Miles, arrived from Thetford, Norfolk, Flight Lieutenant Paddy Teakme, a Tornado navigator from 15th Squadron replied saying: "It is fantastic to realise that some people go to such trouble, it is only fair to try to reply, although

my effort is not nearly so good." The poem from Mr Miles: *You who fly Tornados from off Maharrat's Sands*

*We think you are doing marvellous, we think you're doing grand; You made us proud we're British, sons of that old breed.*

*Which down the years of history, provides when comes the need, Gallant men, our nation's pride, to face our every foe.*

*To stand like a Kohisa or like you, go in low.*

*Yes, very low, and nightly! And take the lethal hail To leave the targets useless as it passes near your tail*

*Who, all too often, saw their mates running out of luck. Lumbering old Whitleys, Wimpeys, Hallers, Lancs Assorted wood Mosquitos, some with long range tanks*

*And see those queer old biplanes that know that land so well? They flew it all between the wars, and have their tales to tell*

*So you in those Tornados? You'll never fly alone! Old bomber boys are with you! They make a mighty drone*

*And as you fly your sorties, let no one dare deride.*

*All who are proud they're British in thought are by your side. FS: For old chairborne generals, in dotage, slightly bawdy, They probably attained that rank whilst in the Sally army.*

*We have all felt fear When the guns come near. But we'll not blame you Our aim will be true From the aircraft we hold so dear.*

*For years we've been told Of heroes of old We now feel proud too To join in your 'Jew'*

*Of brothers who dared to be bold. It's comfort to know You support us so*

*On missions each night It helps us make light Of worries we feel such don't show.*

*We feel a strong bond And feel very fond Of air crew past and present Who've all loved to fly Through the clouds, blue skies and beyond.*

## ALLIED FORCES

**SORTIES:** More than 41,000 allied air missions flown since war began.

**LOSSES:** A B-52 bomber, based at Diego Garcia, crashed into the Indian Ocean after returning from a mission on Saturday. Three crew were rescued. Three are missing. Two US aircraft were reported lost in combat over the weekend and one American was killed in action. Officials reported 12 deaths of US troops since the start of the war. Some 32 servicemen were missing in action, including 23 Americans, eight British, and one Italian. 12 allied prisoners of war were taken by the Iraqis. Some 28 allied planes lost. 22 in combat, 15 American, five British, one Kuwaiti, one Italian. Non-combat losses: 10 American deaths. An additional 105 Americans listed as non-combat deaths in Operation Desert Shield before the war. Six planes, three American helicopters lost.

**IRAQI FORCES**

**CLAIMS:** Iraq said it launched a new missile attack against Israel in retaliation for allied air raids and "to avenge Arab blood (spilled) in Iraq and Palestine."

Baghdad radio, quoting a military spokesman, said allied planes had carried out 17 more air raids against Iraq from Saudi Arabia and Turkey. It said Iraq shot down one enemy plane. Iraq says it has shot down more than 260 planes and missiles in the war.

The Iraqi New Agency said that three US B-52 bombers arrived in Turkey from London to join the assault on Iraq. A Turkish foreign ministry spokesman denied there were any B-52s in the country. In another report, IWA claimed that Qatari forces suffered heavy losses in "the recent battles in the Gulf region."

**ALLIED WAR AIMS**

John Major said: "We are determined to give our forces every ounce of support to ensure Iraq is defeated and the United Nations Security Council's resolutions are implemented in full."

President Bush said: "Our goal is not the conquest of Iraq but the liberation of Kuwait."

Kuwait/Saudi border. Opposing troops, only 250 yards apart, exchanged small arms fire. No casualties reported. British torpedoes knock out three petrol producing stations, including pumping station.

A senior Pentagon official, quoted in the Los Angeles Times, said unless the weather disrupted the allied war schedule, Iraq forces would be shattered up for an allied ground assault in 10 to 20 days.

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BASRA BOMBING

# City pays high price in allied air raids

From EDWARD GORMAN IN AMMAN

GRAPHIC descriptions of the effects of allied bombing given by Indian refugees yesterday suggest the Iraqi southern city of Basra is among those paying the highest price in President Saddam Hussein's "mother of battles".

Educated English-speaking Indians who fled the city last Wednesday, described how Basra has been relentlessly pounded by allied bombers. They say that civilian casualties are becoming increasingly common, the infrastructure is destroyed, and food is scarce.

Basra has been targeted because of its strategic value on the main resupply routes into Kuwait, because numerous grain and ammunition warehouses are located nearby, and because it is close to remnants of the elite Republican Guard.

Anil Kumar Bansur, a civil engineer in his forties, working on housing projects for an Indian-owned construction company in Basra, said initial

raids were targeted exclusively at strategic sites, but as the bombing intensified it became less accurate and civilian areas were hit.

"People are very frightened because in civilian areas there have been at least 40 or 50 attacks with heavy and small bombs," Mr Bansur said.

"Now Basra is under clouds of smoke. In the last three or four days we were there, we did not see sunshine — only clouds of smoke."

On one night 12 bombs landed near the school where Mr Bansur and his fellow Indian workers were taking shelter.

"Around our house there was heavy bombardment. They were bombing every 15 minutes," Mr Bansur said.

"Even I saw so many bombs dropping. Stones and smoke were going up like the blasting of a volcano."

Mr Bansur was among several Indians interviewed at Hail 1 refugee camp about an hour's drive east of Amman, who saw a mosque which had been hit. They heard later that 15 people who were asleep inside were killed.

He said the sight of the dismembered bodies of civilians in rubble was common. "I have seen at least 25 dead bodies," he said.

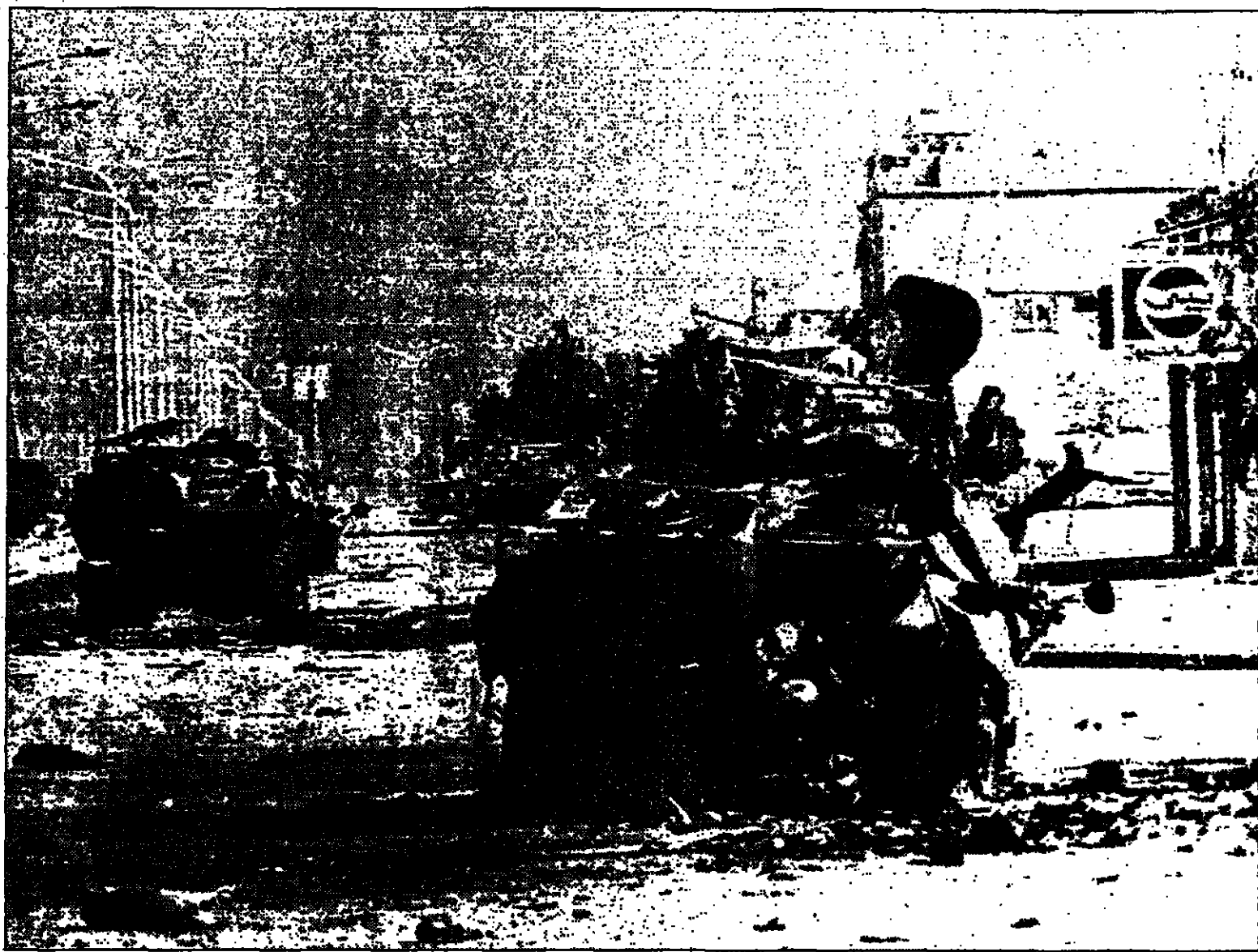
"After the bombing they were moving debris with diggers (excavators), dropping it into some other place. When it was dropped, you could see dead bodies, some legs, some heads, many things. You could not identify which arm belonged to which body."

The manager of a Fumjab-based construction company said he had witnessed similar scenes. "I have seen people under debris — they are removed with shovels (excavators)," he said.

The Indians believed all the main communication centres, government buildings, grain and ammunition warehouses and some oil installations and storage depots had been hit.

They estimated that half the population had left the city to seek safety in the desert and those remaining were becoming hungry each day. Almost all the shops were permanently closed. "Many young people came to me. They were asking me for just one bite of *khubz* (bread) — they were asking like that," Mr Bansur said.

His description of Basra is incomplete and confused but Mr Bansur seemed an honest observer with no political axe to grind, unlike many Palestinian or Jordanian evacuees who have crossed the border in recent days.



End of the road: wrecked and abandoned Iraqi armoured vehicles partly blocking a street into the small Saudi town of Khafji, which has been almost entirely recaptured by the allied forces after being occupied by Saddam's troops for two days last week

## Tehran prepares a peace initiative

By HAZRIR TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Rafsanjani of Iran is expected today to announce an initiative to end the Gulf war by persuading Iraq to leave Kuwait. Government sources said the initiative, which would be the result of many hours of talks between Rafsanjani and a number of foreign envoys, including Iraq's deputy foreign minister, over the weekend, would go beyond merely appealing to the Iraqi leader to evacuate Kuwait in order to halt the further destruction of his country.

A commentator in the Iranian capital said: "Rafsanjani is now committing himself to doing something, and he normally does not undertake such commitments without being reasonably sure in advance of his success". Other watchers of Iranian politics were more sceptical.

On Saturday, President Rafsanjani received Iraq's deputy prime minister, Saadoun Hammadi, one of the most senior figures in the hierarchy of the Baath Party in Baghdad. He carried a letter from President Saddam Hussein and was given the Iranian president's reply to take back to Baghdad. Rafsanjani also received envoys from France, Algeria and Yemen, and had a long phone conversation with Ghulam Khan, Pakistan's president. Yesterday, Kuwait's minister of state for foreign affairs, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed al-Ahmed, was due in Tehran with the exiled emir, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah.

No details were published in Tehran of the letters and messages, and it is not clear what pressure Iraq could bring to bear on Saddam to end his intransigence over Kuwait.

President Rafsanjani, who is under some pressure from Iranian Muslim extremists to incline towards Iraq, has described any ending of his country's declared neutrality as "suicidal".

Observers in Tehran yesterday dismissed any possibility that, under pressure from the Muslim radicals, the Iranian government might appreciably incline itself towards Iraq.

PILOT PUZZLE

## Airmen 'aided by Syrians'

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQI claimed yesterday that seven American pilots whose planes had been hit by "heroic Iraqi anti-aircraft fire" had parachuted to safety in Syria where they were handed over to the United States embassy in Damascus.

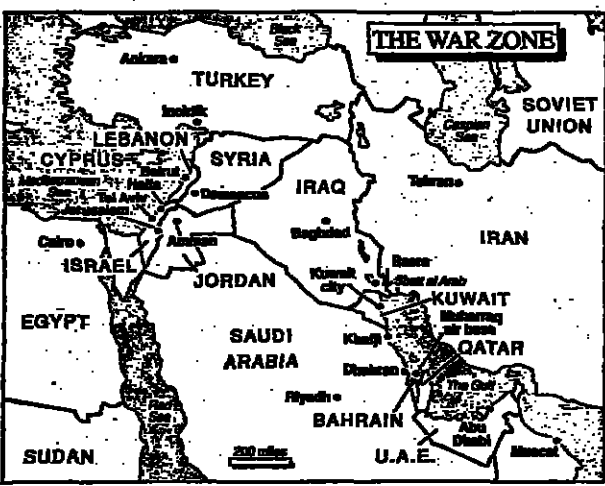
A United States embassy spokesman in Damascus, Bill Murphy, said the report was "untrue" and the official Syrian news agency, insisting the report was "completely fabricated", said there were no American pilots in Syria.

The Iraqi report followed a claim by a refugee, arriving in Jordan from Baghdad last week, who said several English-speaking men had come ashore another refugee's car at gunpoint and sped off into the desert. There was speculation they could have been allied pilots.

Baghdad radio, broadcasting a report by the official Iraqi news agency INA, said Syria had released seven American pilots to the US embassy in the "past two days". It said their planes had been shot down "during their air raids on residential areas in Iraq". The "killer pilots were able to land safely on Syrian territory by parachute."

The dispatch was written by INA's correspondent in Nicosia, Ahmed Sulaiman, who said his information had come from "diplomats in Beirut who had been in Damascus and saw the pilots there on January 30". Mr Sulaiman said Syria's denial was not convincing.

Given the welter of disinformation, it remained possible the Iraqi report was aimed at discrediting Syria as an Arab neighbour willing to give safe haven to pilots. Baghdad insists are war criminals with missions to hit civilian targets.



IRAQI CHEMICALS

## British troops get plague vaccine

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SAUDI ARABIA

INTELLIGENCE reports about Iraq's readiness to use chemical and biological warfare are being taken so seriously that the British Army has decided to vaccinate all frontline and potential frontline troops against the plague.

The use of the vaccine came as Pentagon sources reported that President Saddam Hussein had left local commanders in Kuwait to decide when to use chemical and biological weapons.

The plague jabs, the first in a three-stage immunisation course against one of the world's most contagious diseases, have added a macabre touch of the Middle Ages to a high-tech war.

"We started the course late last week after all the men had been given a briefing on the potential dangers. The inoculations are voluntary, but only a small number refused," said Colonel Tish Leung-Morton, an army doctor in charge of a field ambulance unit. She also offered to provide plague jabs to a group of newsmen.

According to the doctor, the main threat was from plague spread by droplets under cover of darkness (when the deadly bacteria perform best).

Western military officials fear that plague bacteria have been developed by the Iraqis for use in artillery shells with a range of over 20 miles, short-range rockets and even long-range, modified Scud missiles so far firing conventional warheads. It can also be dropped by fighter-bombers.

Doctors admit that the plague jabs have not been tried on a wide scale although they are considered safe. Some 10 to 15 cases of plague occur in America every year, but as a disease it is normally restricted to more remote parts of the Third World. Treatment by antibiotics is possible, but must be very swift.

The growing allied fears about the possibility of a chemical and biological weapons campaign are understood to be based on intelligence reports, including information from Iraqis.

SAUDI ARABIA

## Colonel spices his words of wisdom with a little rugby

From PHILIP JACOBSON WITH THE 7TH ARMoured BRIGADE IN THE SAUDI DESERT

A SAND storm was beginning to blow as we set off to find the Royal Scots Dragon Guards drawn up in a hollow square, the skirt of the regiment's three bagpipers faintly heard above the wind.

More than four hundred men were waiting for their colonel. It was the first time the bulk of the regiment had been assembled since Christmas, and every man knew it was probably the last time before they go into battle.

Colonel John Sharples' first news, for the handful of men who did not already know it, was of Scotland's crushing

rugby victory over Wales on Saturday. He moved on to the new pay scale for the army: "I think you can safely assume this has something to do with our presence out here." The men smiled, but were soon muttering when they realised that rises in living costs would eat into their new pay.

The real purpose of the colonel's address soon became apparent: he had come to tell his regiment how much he trusted them to do their duty if and when the day to fight should arrive, how much faith in them their families, friends and admirers had expressed in

letters from home, how he knew that relentless training and superb equipment would prevail on the field of combat.

"I think we are on the verge of meeting the most momentous experience of our lives. Think about the enemy by all means," he said, "think about the punishment his troops are absorbing. But never, ever, allow yourself to get cocky about the Iraqis out there, because they have fought before, and they are used to deprivation, which frankly we are not. Mistakes and sloppiness on the battlefield will kill," he said.

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SUNALLIANCE  
LIFE & PENSIONS

C24/FR1 [1/91] EDW

FRONTLINE NOTEBOOK

## Spirit of Catch 22 soldiers on

In an incident which echoes Joseph Heller's novel *Catch 22*, but which some officers fear might have sinister overtones, at least fifty US military vehicles have disappeared at night from an army compound near allied front lines.

One theory is that, in an operation of which Yossarian, the hero of *Catch 22*, and his colleagues would have been proud, the vehicles have been spirited away by members of their own units for use as spare parts. "The way I look at it, this is cannibalisation pure and simple," an intelligence officer said.

But another, more disturbing theory is that the stolen gear could be used in guerrilla assaults on American bases. Intelligence reports to commanders last week warned that more than a dozen Palestinian terrorists were operating in the sector occupied by the 1st Armoured Division.

Knight in armour once rode into battle bearing their ladies' favours, a scarf or ribbon, tied to their lances. The technology may have changed, but in the modern Arabian conflict the principle has not. In the US Army's 32nd Airborne Division, some soldiers are tacking underwear

sent by their wives or girlfriends into their helmets as good-luck charms.

Medical Sergeant Sal Garcia Jr, aged 24, from Norwalk, California, doffed his helmet the other day, glanced about furtively and then pulled a pair of perfume-scented knickers from his bulletproof helmet.

"When I put my helmet on I think of her because of the perfume," he said. "Her" is a woman named Kelly who

It'll be a brief engagement



Garcia met just a month before he left for Saudi Arabia in August. He says the garment will bring him luck when he goes into battle and remind him that someone is waiting for him back home.

Others say they plan to follow Sergeant Garcia's example. One said he spent two months persuading his wife to send him some of her underwear. She finally relented, but now he is embarrassed each time he has to wash them. Sergeant Christopher Bolner of Lexington, Kentucky, on the other hand, said he sent his girlfriend's black knickers back because the constant reminder of her proved too much for him. "I was going nuts," he said.

President Saddam Hussein is a "distraught" man who is being treated with tranquilisers by three doctors, General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the US Gulf force, said in an interview with *US News and World Report* magazine. "We have several reports that Saddam is a very distraught man, that he has three doctors treating him with tranquilisers, which may say something about his mental state," he said. Compiled from pool reports.

Even more extraordinary than the appearance of this multi-limbed alien is the cleverness of its brain. And that is exceeded only by the nastiness of the world it creates. Imagine some never-to-be-wished motoring nightmare. A blown tyre on a B-road and an oncoming truck, perhaps. Why not throw in a sharp bend, a touch too much speed, and some ice?



No matter how chilling the scenario you conjure up, this driving simulator will have taken Mercedes-Benz cars and engineers there already. It will have helped to ensure that safety elements built into

every Mercedes-Benz – whether they're braking, powertrain, steering or suspension systems – are as effectively designed as it is possible to make them.

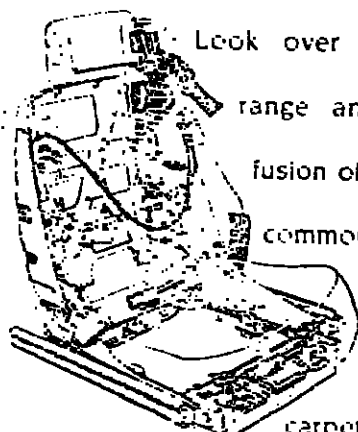
Within the high-tech confines of this unique Mercedes-Benz research tool, the entire world of driving experience can be reproduced.

Every driving sensation, every road condition, every conceivable traffic and climatic hazard is on tap. (It is possible, for example, to generate enormous simulated lateral acceleration, the sort of cornering stress that only expert drivers can draw from the world's most exotic production sports cars.)

And the benefits to be reaped from such research – be it the design of a Mercedes-Benz seat or direction indicator, a rear suspension linkage or foot pedal – are all the more conclusive for the exceptional realism of the simulator testing.

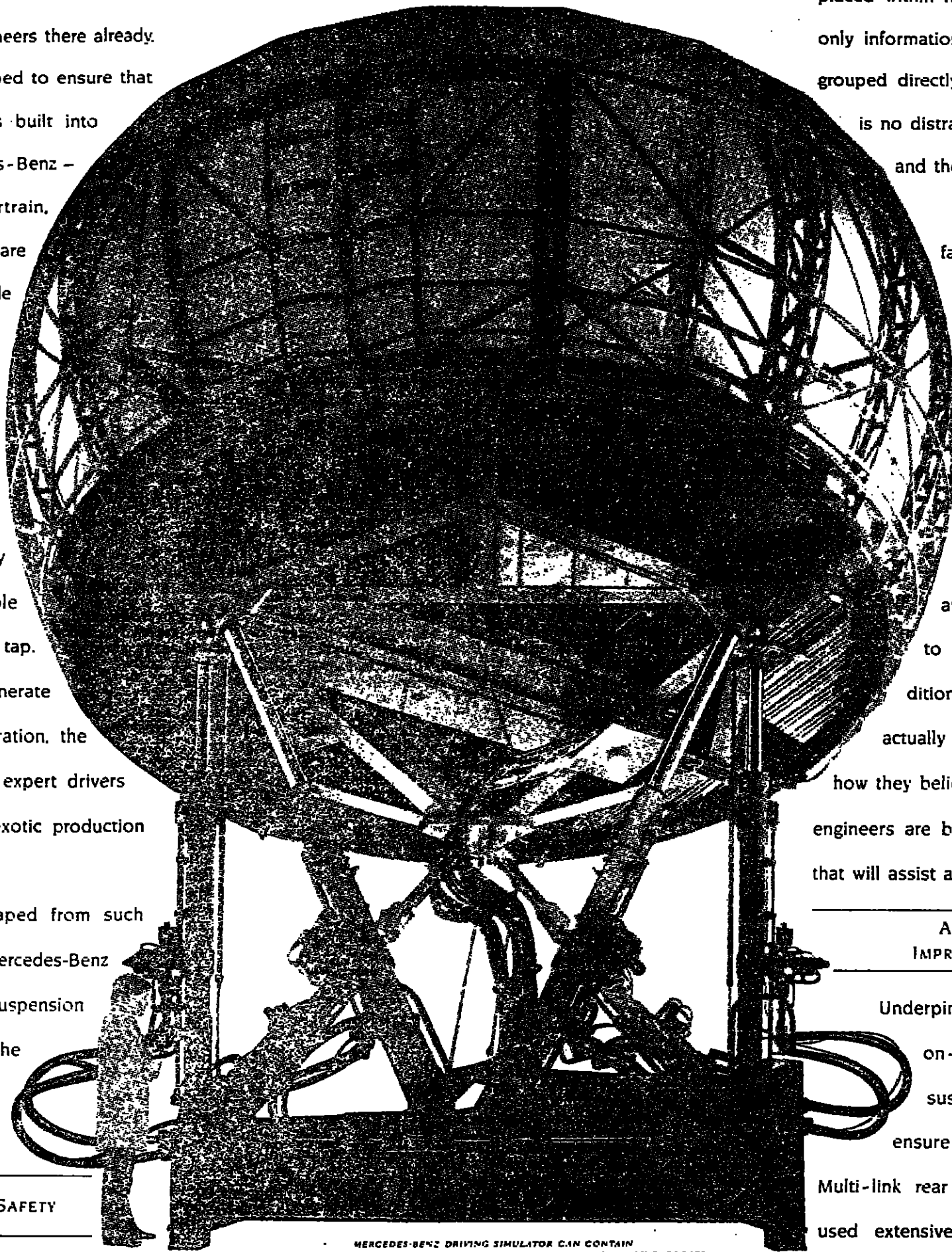
#### LUXURY SITS EASILY WITH SAFETY

But never suppose there is no room in the heart of a Mercedes-Benz designer for driving simulator for life's little comforts.



Look over the current Mercedes-Benz range and you'll discover a careful fusion of the rational and aesthetic: the common sense of a flawless driving position, the warmth of new, more luxurious fabrics and carpeting; the support and comfort of redesigned seats that are yielding yet firm enough to inhibit tiredness on long journeys.

And, as the car's aerodynamic efficiency lets it cleave the air in near silence, and as the rubber bushing of the subframes and the generosity of the insulation so effectively isolate the interior from mechanical vibration and road noise, yet another priority becomes apparent. Mercedes-Benz engineers discovered long ago that what you don't experience in a car is just as important as what you do.



MERCEDES-BENZ DRIVING SIMULATOR CAN CONTAIN AND TEST EVERY MODEL UP TO THE S-CLASS SALOON FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.

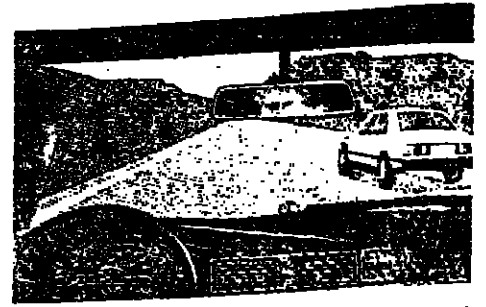
## The world according to Mercedes-Benz



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#### ERGONOMICALLY IDEAL CONTROLS AND INSTRUMENTS

Never has a Mercedes-Benz driver been more ably assisted by the crisp logic of the instrument panel and control layout than he is today. Both



are models of clarity, perfected in the crucible of the driving simulator; every important control is placed within natural and instantaneous reach, and only information that is crucial to driving safety is grouped directly in the driver's field of view. There is no distracting gimmickry, no digital nonsense, and there are no pseudo-electronics.

Once in the driver's seat, your hands fall onto an ergonomically satisfying steering wheel. And on the move, the power-steering assistance varies subtly to complement your own inputs at all speeds, and to ensure maximum feedback sensitivity – precision without exertion – another vital safety and comfort bonus. Yet another bonus is the simulator's ability to test driver reaction to stressful conditions. By learning how human beings actually react in emergencies, as opposed to how they believe they would react, Mercedes-Benz engineers are better placed to design car controls that will assist accident avoidance.

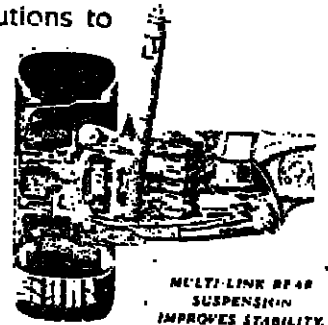
#### ADVANCED SUSPENSION IMPROVES HANDLING FINESSE

Underpinning the assured and reassuring on-road behaviour of all models, are suspension systems engineered to ensure maximum tyre contact and grip. Multi-link rear suspension, for instance, is now used extensively. This Mercedes-Benz invention disciplines self-steering and toe-in tendencies that the rear wheels of all cars are prone to under extreme conditions.

The independently located damper and spring arrangement of the wishbone-mounted front suspension combines the compliant, accommodating ride of long-travel coil springs with the control that dampers anchored close to the wheel-hubs provides. Such optimised front and rear suspension design assures the driver of enviably safe and neutral handling and exceptional comfort at all times.

In the motor industry, no less than in other fields, the search for the best solutions to universal problems is a painstaking business.

Making the driver's environment as safe and comfortable as it is stimulating, is an ideal that Mercedes-Benz engineers continue to try to perfect as they re-enter, again and again, the unique world of their driving simulator in search of answers that only it is equipped to give.



MULTI-LINK REAR SUSPENSION IMPROVES STABILITY.



WESTERN AIMS

# Hurd wants curb on sales of arms to Middle East

By MICHAEL BRYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE West must bring stability to the Middle East after the war by curbing the massive flow of arms to the area, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said at the weekend.

"Above all we must put a choke on components which can be used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction," he told a Conservative dinner in Leicestershire on Saturday. These restraints would have to be "effectively and vigorously policed".

He said the Middle East was in danger of descending into a terrible arms race, including the spread of weapons of mass destruction. "It is profoundly dangerous for world peace for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons to proliferate. While enabling the Gulf states to defend themselves, the West must exercise restraint

in the supply of armaments to the region."

Mr Hurd did not spell out how such restraint was to be enforced, or what constituted a reasonable flow of arms to ensure the legitimate security of Gulf states. However, in a radio interview on *The World this Weekend* he said yesterday priority must be given to stopping the export of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. That was where the will to deal with the problem was greatest.

He said a voluntary cut in the supply of arms would not prevent the development of weapons of mass destruction; it would only delay them. The West must seek to remove the motivation for their possession. Improved security structures in the Gulf and progress on the Arab-Israeli

conflict might create conditions in which a regional arms initiative could succeed.

Mr Hurd told the Conservative Association in Bialby that the first task when peace was restored would be the reconstruction of Kuwait. "In this, I believe, Britain will have a significant part to play. But in parallel with this, the countries of the Gulf, helped as necessary by their allies, will need to devise new structures to bolster their security."

The invasion of Kuwait had shown the need for a strong association among the Gulf states. In his radio interview the foreign secretary said that Saudi Arabia was the natural leader of a strengthened Gulf Co-operation Council. Their collective security could include a role for other Muslim countries such as Egypt, Turkey, Syria and Pakistan.

In return, he said, the Gulf states would use their wealth to promote the economic stability of populous states with no large oil income. Greater equity in the distribution of wealth would help the Middle East.

But Mr Hurd said it was unrealistic and undesirable to try to put the clock back. "We do not want to revive a permanent military presence east of Suez. With our allies we are naturally prepared to respond to suggestions about how best we can help to underpin the peace. This might include maintaining pre-positioned equipment, aircraft or a naval presence. But this should be a contribution to, rather than the cornerstone of, a coherent security structure in the area."

Mr Hurd rejected any linkage with the Gulf war. But he said there was an urgent need to return with vigour to the Arab-Israeli issue.

Mr Hurd firmly distanced himself from remarks by Henry Catto, the American ambassador to Britain, that Iran could not be trusted to keep the fleeing Iraqi planes until the war was over. Mr Catto called the Iranians "practised if not talented liars". He said on television: "I do not know if I can trust them as far as I can throw them."

● Critical Hostile The government's proposals for a peace-keeping role for British forces in the Gulf after victory in the war against Iraq were sharply criticised yesterday as a "new imperialism" by Edward Heath (Nicholas Wood writes).

The former Conservative prime minister said that the region's long-term peace and security was a matter for the Arab League and the United Nations and Britain should play no military role.

"This is the new imperialism, and I am against the new imperialism. It is not our job to go throwing our forces around the world and saying 'This is an evil man and so on,'" he said on BBC television's *On the Record*.

Ronald Butt, page 10  
Leading article, page 11

LABOUR DIVISIONS

# Challenge over war objectives

By KERRY GILL

A GROUP of Scottish Labour MPs and trade unionists will bring pressure on the party leadership this week to dissociate itself from the aim of dismantling the Iraqi war machine and the possibility of toppling President Saddam Hussein from power.

It emerged yesterday that the group, known as Scottish Labour Against War in the Gulf, held a secret meeting in Glasgow at which members pledged opposition to any military action against Iraq after Saddam withdraws from Kuwait.

"Our aim is to rally forces throughout the Labour party who are opposed to the war. We want to try to pressurise the party to bring the war to an end through a negotiated settlement," said one of the group's founder members, John McAllion, the MP for Dundee East.

Mr McAllion will second a motion on Wednesday at a meeting of the parliamentary Labour party calling for the war aims to be limited to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Mr McAllion said the group was backed by members from the left and right of the party, although some Scottish Labour MPs claimed they

knew nothing about its formation. Tony Worthington, MP for Clydebank and Milngavie, said it was the first he had heard of it. Norman Hogg, MP for Cumberland and Kilsyth, said: "I have never heard of this."

George Foulkes, MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, said: "We know the people who are in favour of a ceasefire, but we were all anxious to avoid a war. We would all have liked to see sanctions carry on for much longer." However, Mr Foulkes said he had no doubt that the motion by Neil Kinnock and Gerald Kaufman, reiterating the party's stance declared last week, would be heavily backed.

● Council attacked The Labour-controlled local authority of Lambeth in south London was condemned yesterday by its own party for passing an anti-Gulf war motion which declared that "patriotic and pro-war hysteria" in Britain amounted to racism (Michael Horsnell writes).

During an acrimonious four-hour debate on Friday, left-wingers demanded a ceasefire and the withdrawal of allied troops from the Gulf. Yesterday a spokesman for the Labour party said: "Lambeth has some of the worst pockets of deprivation in Britain, and we think councillors should be concentrating their minds on countering it."

The party's embarrassment is likely to be prolonged this week by two further anti-war debates. Bervie Grant, the black Labour MP for Tottenham, will lead a public meeting of a group calling itself Black People Against War in the Gulf. Later this week left-wingers in the Transport and General Workers' Union will propose an immediate ceasefire.



Foulkes: wanted more time for sanctions

TERRORISM FEARS

# Carnivals toned down from Rio to Venice

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FROM Venice to Rio the carnival is not exactly over. But, because of the Gulf war, the spectre of terrorism lurks behind the mask of pleasure at some of the most famous revels on the international calendar.

Since the carnival was revived a decade ago, Venice's streets at this time of year have been thronged with people in masks and fancy dress. But because of war in the Gulf, the authorities became nervous that such disguises could provide cover for terrorists.

Then, to everybody's surprise, it was discovered that the wearing of masks in public places had been outlawed by Mussolini in 1931 and the ordinance appeared still to be on the statute book. A meeting of provincial and local government chiefs agreed last week to revive the long-forgotten measure. The interior ministry has yet to approve the ban.

But the threat was greeted with dismay by the city's 150 mask-makers. Stefano Falchetti, director of the Venice hoteliers' association, whose members' bookings were already

down by at least 50 per cent, said that many more foreigners were cancelling after hearing that masks would be forbidden.

In Rio de Janeiro, a carnival ball called One Night in Baghdad is having its name changed after 30 years. The costume party is now known as The Mount Lebanon Gale Ball.

The Mount Lebanon Club took the decision to change the name as "an act of solidarity towards the suffering of the war. This year there is no room for joking," said the club's president, Salomao Saadi, a Brazilian of Lebanese descent.

However, some of the Tuesday night's Mount Lebanon party-goers are likely to be hiding behind Saddam Hussein masks, up to 10,000 of which were rushed into production before the carnival by Armando Valles, an entrepreneur.

According to the Brazilian Association of the Hotel Industry, the number of tourists visiting Rio for the carnival is likely to be down by some 20 per cent. This year it is not the city's

violent image which has affected hotel bookings, but the Gulf war and the fear of terrorist attacks in the air.

Another palace of pleasure, the Folies Bergere in Paris, said yesterday it was closing for two weeks because of a dearth of reservations for February amid fears of terrorism. Several carnivals were cancelled across France.

A spokesman for the Parisian nightspot said business had held up reasonably in January but the lack of custom this month meant the theatre could not cover the cost of staying open.

In Nice, Honoré Ballet, the mayor, said he was cancelling the annual carnival at the resort because it was "morally unacceptable to organise parties and rejoicing" during wartime.

He said security for the extravaganza would have been inadequate because too many police had been diverted elsewhere to guard against terrorism.

A carnival at Marseilles and a carnival-time bullfight at the ancient Roman town of Nîmes were also cancelled.



Army deserter Dr Yolande Huet-Vaughan, who refused to go to the Gulf, giving a peace sign as she leaves a rally in a Kansas City church at the weekend. The doctor, a reserve captain aged 39, later gave herself up

WAR OPPONENTS

# Churchmen to form peace organisation

By RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR churchmen are expected to form a Christian organisation today to campaign for an end to the Gulf war.

Leaders of Christian peace organisations are meeting in London this afternoon to vote on a proposal to form the Christian Coalition for Peace in the Gulf. The move is supported by leading

Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist and Methodist clergy and follows a letter signed by Christian opponents of the war delivered to Downing Street last week.

Barbara Eggleston, of Christian CND, said the new body will be formed at today's meeting of the Christian Peace Co-ordinating Committee, a liaison body for organisations such as Pax Christi, Clergy Against Nuclear Arms, the Quakers and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. "Groups and individuals

will be opposed to the war but our interests will be wider. We will be seeking to promote a future just peace," she said.

● BONN: Thirty out of 170 members of a Bundeswehr anti-aircraft battery being sent to defend an air base in Turkey have refused to go for reasons of conscience, their lawyer announced at the weekend. The 30 said they had joined the armed forces in the belief that they would never have to fight.

SECURITY

# Airlines warned of bomb attack

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AIRLINES and airports round the world have been given their first specific warning of a possible terrorist attack with a call to keep watch for an attempt at a Lockerbie-style bombing using a Samsonite suitcase concealing explosives and a timer.

The detailed warning was issued from Washington and London less than a week after the start of the Gulf war in an urgent message and then followed by further details in a letter. The warning, understood to be based on intelligence from Washington, is being taken seriously and is thought to be based on good information.

The case is thought to be medium sized, may be one of several colours, including brown, and hold about four to five pounds of plastic explosive. This might be hidden in a false compartment in the lining of the case. Samsonite cases have long been a popular choice for drug smugglers because hidden compartments can be built into them. A Samsonite was used to bring down Pan Am flight 103 killing 270. The Pan Am bomb was hidden inside a radio-cassette.

Several Palestinian groups now allied to Iraq have the capability for attacks on airliners.

Bernard Levin, page 10

# Sending mail to Forces in the Gulf.

YOU CAN SEND PARCELS BY AIR AT A GREATLY REDUCED RATE TO BRITISH FORCES POST OFFICE (BFPO) ADDRESSES IN THE GULF.

## ECONOMY PARCEL SERVICE

This is available at all post offices throughout the country. Prices start at £2 for the first kilogramme (compared with up to £10.70 for the standard BFPO service to the Gulf, which has now been suspended.) Prices go up to £5 for the maximum weight of 10 kilogrammes.

Ask for THE BFPO ECONOMY PARCEL SERVICE, and mark your parcels "BFPO Economy Service".

If customers want more information on Parcelforce International Services to the Gulf using BFPO numbers, there is a special national enquiry hotline number, free of charge, on 0800 224466.

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These are available free of charge at post offices and no stamp is needed for BFPO addresses in the Gulf. Aerogrammes are thin A4 sheets of blue airmail paper, which can be written on both sides, and are then folded to envelope size for posting.

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## SPECIAL LETTER RATE

For customers who want to send even longer messages, or include an enclosure inside a normal envelope, there are BFPO reduced letter rates. For example 22p for airmail items of up to 40 grammes to the Gulf.

## ADDRESSES

The way to address all your mail is to include the number, rank and name, sub unit/unit or ship and BFPO number.

## THE POST OFFICE



# Tories jolted by mortgage arrears and lack of jobs

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government came under renewed pressure to cut interest rates yesterday with the release of job vacancy figures showing that the recession is biting deeply into the Tory heartlands of southern England. Conservative gloom was compounded by separate data on mortgage arrears underlining the "white collar" nature of the downturn.

A Labour survey of unfilled posts at Jobcentres disclosed that London, East Anglia and the South-East had the biggest falls over the past year. Middle-class jobs in the managerial, secretarial, clerical and sales sectors are among the hardest hit, in contrast to the last slump ten years ago.

Gordon Brown, the opposition trade and industry spokesman, widened the attack on the government's economic policies by accusing ministers of adding to the pressures on firms struggling with an interest rate bill of £30 billion a year. They were planning to reduce state support for research and development by 40 per cent over the next two years. "As 500 companies go to the wall every week, ministers are imposing the double burden of cuts in research support vital to our long-term prosperity," he said.

Meanwhile, Nationwide Anglia, the second biggest building society, disclosed that one in ten borrowers is in arrears or has renegotiated payments. Repossessions last year reached a record 40,000, nearly twice the previous record of 1987, according to figures to be released by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

A spokesman for the Building Societies Association said yesterday: "I don't think we can say that we have peaked yet. We now have the very unusual situation of the South-East being hit by both a property slump and by increasing unemployment. That may cause more prob-

lems in this region but hopefully we won't see such a sharp increase in arrears this year."

Robert Dunn, Tory MP for Dartford, said that the figures underlined the need for an early reduction in interest rates to ease the burden on individuals and firms.

Last week, the prime minister resisted Labour demands for an immediate cut in the cost of borrowing by emphasising that the conquest of inflation remained his priority.

Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be hoping, however, that he can brighten an otherwise cheerless budget next month by making credit cheaper.

According to the new figures, countrywide vacancies at Jobcentres fell by 70,000 or 39 per cent in the 12 months to December. The biggest drops were in London (56 per cent), East Anglia (55 per cent) and the South-East (50 per cent). The traditional unemployment blackspots of Yorkshire and Humberside (25 per cent) and the North-West (28 per cent) suffered far less.

Overall, the managerial, clerical and service sectors accounted for more than half the lost vacancies in the past year. The vulnerability of southern England, with its heavy reliance on the service sector, is shown by the London figures.

Managerial vacancies there fell by 800, or 63 per cent, typing and secretarial posts by 260 or 58 per cent, clerical by 2,160 or 61 per cent and sales by 1,020 or 48 per cent. The South-East and East Anglia had similar losses, but white collar employment in the other regions was less affected.

Tony Blair, chief opposition employment spokesman, said that the figures showed that the latest downturn was striking at middle-class jobs and bringing down efficient firms.

Leading article, page 11

## Pay deals top last year's, survey finds

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THREE-QUARTERS of present pay deals are higher than comparable wage increases a year ago, despite falling inflation, an independent analysis of pay settlements finds today.

The results of the report by Incomes Data Services, the leading pay research company, contrast sharply with recent claims by the Confederation of British Industry that pay deals are now below the headline inflation rate.

Ministers are likely to see the findings as evidence that further jobs will be lost across industry until lower settlements are reached. Last week, when CBI leaders forecast a further 80,000 job losses in the first three months of this year, they said that there was increasing anecdotal evidence that a number of pay settlements were now being reached at lower levels. But Incomes Data Services (IDS) says today that the bulk of deals are still running at 9 to 11 per cent, well above inflation rate.

The company accepts that there is now beginning to be a greater diversity of pay deals, with "a small but significant group of agreements which are substantially below the inflation rate," including a deal for 7 per cent at Reuters news agency and 6 per cent at Litigow Electronics.

The survey also records a handful of freezes on pay for a few months - including those at Michelin and Philips. However, the analysis finds settlements in the main still staying high, with about 75 per cent of deals agreed this month running 1 to 2 percentage points higher than comparable agreements in the same companies in the 1989-90 pay round.

Looking at 100 comparable deals, IDS finds that about 80 of them are higher now than last year, such as a deal for staff at Littlewoods, 7.5 per cent last year, 8.75 per cent now. A number of deals are listed as substantially higher, including Borg Warner, offering 11.3 per cent this year against last year's 5 per cent and British Coal at 10 per cent (7.6 per cent).

## Small rise in cost of homes

HOUSE prices in Britain increased slightly last month, the first monthly rise since last August, according to a new monthly house price survey published yesterday by the Nationwide Building Society.

The increase was 0.3 per cent, following only small falls in November and December. John Hutchinson, Nationwide's retail operations director, said that the trend may indicate signs of a pick-up in the market.

Another report in *Housing Finance*, journal of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, claims that the increase in house prices during the late 1980s was not to blame for the present recession. It also refutes suggestions that a reduction in interest rates cannot be made because it would increase house prices again.

Results of the new treatment on 4,000 men has proved that the majority of sufferers can now be successfully treated. A spokesman for The London Diagnostic Centre, a leading independent clinic specialising in the field of male sexual problems, said yesterday:

"Male impotence affects far more men than is realised and many of the cases previously diagnosed as untreatable have been helped to resume a normal sex life. Many men are already using this thoroughly tested and safe treatment in the privacy of their own home."

The fully qualified professional staff at the London Diagnostic Centre offer expert help and sympathetic counselling on full and partial impotence, premature ejaculation and most other psychogenic or organic disorders. If you would like to know more and discover how you can lead a happy and more fulfilling sex life please post the coupon on page 15 today.



Holy fools: Smokey the clown making up yesterday for the 45th annual tribute to the father of the profession, Grimaldi. An army of red noses, baggy suits and preposterous footwear descended on Holy Trinity Church, Dalston, east London, for the service, where their owners were greeted by the Rev John Willard. The clowns' painted smiles, however, could not hide the hint of melancholy at the thought of their founding father who died aged 58 in 1837, penniless and crippled with arthritis. Children and clowns sang along with a one-man band and a wreath was laid at Grimaldi's memorial. Children's chuckles echoed around the lofty building as about a hundred clowns gave thanks for the gift of laughter. There were fewer smiles at Bognor, Sussex, where a hundred American clowns due to have flown in for a convention next month have cancelled because of fears of air terrorism related to the Gulf war. Organisers say the event will still go ahead.

## Barristers may have to continue legal study

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a programme under which all barristers will be required to keep up to date with legal developments through compulsory continuing education courses, are being drawn up within the Bar Council.

The £500,000 scheme, still in draft form, would mean an end to the present system which enables barristers, once qualified, to practise with no further checks on their abilities or knowledge once they have qualified.

Subjects that they might have to study include advocacy, accountancy, European law and human rights, arbitration and out-of-court methods of resolving disputes, known as alternative dispute resolution.

In a linked proposal also under discussion, the requirement to do continuing education courses might be enforced through a new system of practising certificates. It is not compulsory for barristers to pay an annual subscription to their professional body, although solicitors must pay an annual practising certificate fee.

The proposals, to be put to the Bar Council later this year, would bring in a system of compulsory subscriptions and practising certificates for barristers. Only those who had paid their subscriptions and their indemnity insurance premium and undertaken the continuing education courses would be licensed to practise.

Anthony Thornton, QC, Bar Council treasurer, is promoting the idea of compulsory subscriptions after a tribunal hearing last year which held that the Bar was powerless to discipline the minority of barristers who fail to pay. The council believes, however, that under the Bar's new code it could stop barristers from going into court and exercising their rights of audience if in default of their subscriptions.

The Bar proposals are being drafted as a three-part report by a working party. The idea is for the programme to be run by a small secretariat in one of the Inns of Court.

## Sick pay pledge for small businesses to quell MPs' revolt

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Newton, the social security secretary, will promise MPs tomorrow to give extra money to small companies affected by high levels of staff sickness.

He hopes the concession will rescue his statutory sick pay bill, which shifts some of the financial responsibility for statutory sick pay from the government to employers.

Mr Newton will announce the changes when the bill returns to the Commons tomorrow for MPs to debate three Lords amendments wrecking his plan to save £100 million a year through reduced state payments of statutory sick pay (SSP).

The Confederation of British Industry says that the legislation could add £1 billion to industry's costs and renege on a government commitment to meet the full costs.

With heavy whipping of Tory MPs, the government intends to reverse the most damaging Lords amendment sponsored by the CBI, which cuts the compensation paid by the state to employers for SSP from 100 per cent to 91 per cent instead of the 80 per cent Mr Newton planned.

When the Bill returns to the Lords again on Thursday Lord Waddington, leader of the Lords, will warn peers that their limited financial powers prevent them from cutting the percentage again.

Mr Newton has refused demands by the CBI to scrap the legislation altogether this session. But he has received Treasury clearance to make two concessions.

He will offer extra financial help for 700,000 small firms where national insurance contributions total less than £15,000 a year if they have heavy levels of sickness. He is also expected to accept a Lords amendment requiring a new bill to be introduced before ministers can cut SSP payments to employers still further in future years.

Too soft on sickies? page 14

## Heseltine accused of breaking poll tax review pledge

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, was accused yesterday of going back on a promise to make public his thinking on the poll tax.

Sir Jack Layden, chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the government appeared intent on conducting its review of local government finance in an introverted and secretive way.

At a meeting with local government leaders before Christmas Mr Heseltine promised that his department would publish position papers setting out the options which his review would consider. Sir Jack said yesterday that the local authority associations had been told last week that no such papers would be forthcoming.

Instead of revealing its thinking on the poll tax the department had set an "exam paper" of 127 questions which it wanted local government leaders to answer when they met Mr Heseltine on Thursday, he said.

A possible explanation is that, according to official sources, only a handful of staff have been appointed to the review team. It has been disclosed to *The Times* that in addition to Roger Bright, who has been put in charge of the review, there are only three senior staff working on the project. Apart from their personal secretaries the group has no other clerical support.

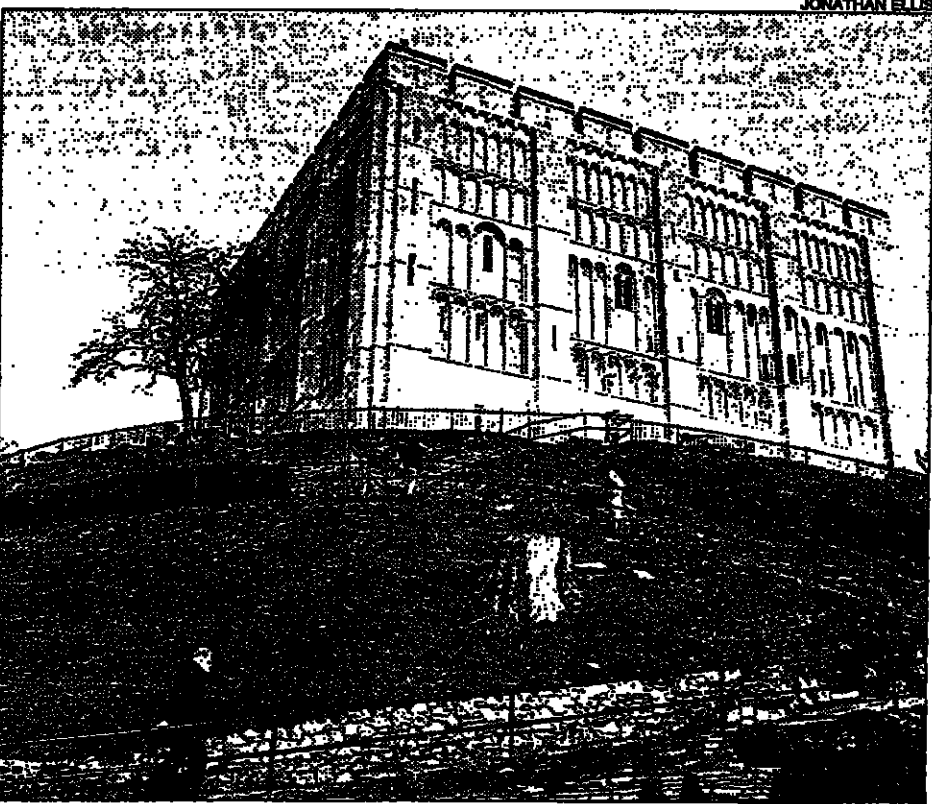
The three senior colleagues working with Mr Bright hold assistant secretary rank and have each been given responsibility for different aspects of the review. They are: Andrew Wells, formerly of the Cabinet Office; Ian Scouter, who will carry out computer modelling to test the practicability of alternatives to the present system of council finance; and Lindsey Bell, who is in charge of examining local government structure.

The need for the review to be as open as possible was underlined by Sir Jack. He said: "Before Christmas, Michael Heseltine made great capital out of his invitation for everyone to sit down with him to help sort out the community charge and the future of local government. But all we have been offered as a basis for talks is a list of exam questions. This is totally contrary to assurances we were given in December."

Controversy over the future of the poll tax was heightened yesterday with the disclosure that a leading accountancy body was urging the government to introduce a national identity card system to help collect the tax.

A draft submission to the government's poll tax review by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, the town hall treasurers' body, said that, if ministers were determined to retain some sort of individual local charge, identity cards were the only practical way of keeping track of people.

In its submission, the institute said the poll tax was unfair, three times as expensive to collect as rates and dependent on the effective tracking of a highly mobile population.



Crumbling heritage: a seven-year restoration plan for Norwich castle costing £1.4 million has been drawn up by the city council. The 900-year-old landmark, which houses a museum, is suffering from structural movement. £1m collection, page 12

## Squabble over debt 'is a long way from Jesus'

The Bishop of Lincoln believes prayer will resolve the dispute in the city's cathedral. Ruth Gledhill reports

AS THE deadlock continues in the Lincoln cathedral close, one man thinks he might have found the key; the Bishop of Lincoln believes the answer lies in prayer.

The Rt Rev Robert Hardy, aged 54, is distressed by the bitter turn the dispute has taken. He would prefer the nation's attention to be focused on the Decade of Evangelism or the problems of rural ministry rather than the unseemly squabble between the four canons and the dean.

He prays about the Lincoln Magna Carta affair every day. "I pray for the people involved," he says. "I try quite regularly to scrutinise my own actions. I turn the spotlight on me."

There is little else he can do: church law means he is powerless to dismiss any residential canon or to take any action if they refuse to accede to his requests for them to resign. He has found his lack of

episcopal authority one of the most frustrating aspects of the affair.

He strives to recognise that he can be part of the solution and asks God to show him how. "The hard thing has been combining a pastoral role with the individuals with a sort of judgemental role. But that is a problem for all bishops."

"I try not to take sides but to look at the situation as a whole, as it affects the life of the diocese and what it demonstrates to the church in general. As I said before, it is all a very long way from Jesus of Nazareth. Unless we keep going back to the life and ministry of Jesus, we are

in trouble. Inevitably you get drawn in by the pain. I have been supporting several individuals caught up by it, as well as trying to help the protagonists."

The bishop, a liberal catholic, brought the dispute into the public domain with the publication of the report of his "visitation". He was called in by parties after a fundraising exhibition of the cathedral's Magna Carta in Australia in 1988 left a debt of £56,000.

He has been helped through the past few months by his daughter and two sons, in their late teens, and his wife Isabel, a local GP.

One source of anguish is the way the affair has detracted from other issues: his particular concern is rural ministry. One in ten of his clergy have fewer than 1,000 parishioners in their care, spread over as many as 10 communities. He is involved in the church's response to the recent

report, *Faith in the Countryside*.

The bishop's reputation for straight talking, and his honesty and integrity made him the ideal choice to go to Lincoln four years ago. It was already widely known that there were problems in the diocese.

Born in Wakefield he was drawn into the church by a religious experience when he visited Hereford Cathedral during national service. "I felt God knew me and I knew Him," he said. He decided to become ordained in his second year at Clare College, Cambridge.

"I think the fundamental call to a Christian is to lead a holy and good life. I actually care about my own soul quite a lot. Being a bishop makes it harder to care for your own soul because inevitably you are forced into situations of compromise, of having to make judgements. I think it is quite difficult to do that with honesty and integrity."

## AGENDA

The week ahead

Today: In Cwmbran, the head of the Gwent police traffic department faces a drink-driving charge.

Tomorrow: Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, addresses a crime prevention conference in Westminster. Variety Club showbusiness awards are presented. Nigel Benn, the boxer, appears before Newham magistrates charged with causing actual bodily harm.

Wednesday: McDonald's Child of Achievement awards presented at Guildhall, London. Jazz for Romania concert at the Regent Palace hotel, London.

Thursday: Royal College of Psychiatrists reports on anorexia and bulimia. The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh open a new building at Royal Brompton national heart and lung hospital.

Friday: Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, addresses local government conference in Nottingham. Jeremy Isaacs, of the Royal Opera House, meets the press at a newspaper conference lunch.

Saturday: Young Conservatives' conference starts in Scarborough.

Sunday: Cheltenham Conservative Association meets to discuss John Taylor's selection as candidate.

## Maxwell names new editor at European

Robert Maxwell, the newspaper publisher, announced yesterday that he had acquired the title of *The Correspondent* newspaper, which will be incorporated into *The European* (Arthur Leathley writes).

Mr Maxwell also appointed John Bryant, former editor of *The Correspondent* and former deputy editor of *The Times*, as editor of the weekly English-language newspaper which is sold throughout Europe. There is no indication as to whether the Friday newspaper would in future be published on Sunday, as was *The Correspondent* until it ceased trading in November.

Mr Bryant takes over from Ian Watson, who has been appointed editorial director after resigning over what Mr Maxwell referred to as "an amicable difference of policy" over plans to incorporate *The Correspondent*.

*The European* is believed to be selling about 250,000 copies each Friday, shared equally between Britain and European outlets.

Mr Bryant said last night that it was too early to say whether there would be changes, but added: "There is no crisis at the paper."

Mr Maxwell also announced that Charles Wilson, editor-in-chief of *The Sporting Life* and former editor of *The Times*, and David Burnside, British Airways public affairs director, have been appointed directors of *The European*.

## Liver girl stable

Tamara Rainey, aged two, from Belfast, was given only hours to live before a donor was found for a second liver transplant on Saturday.

She was in a stable condition on a ventilator at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, last night. Surgeons were "extremely pleased" with her progress. Tamara, who had a failed liver swap last October, is expected to be in intensive care for at least four days.

## Killer warning

Police hunting the killer of a 22-year-old prostitute, found strangled near the Wolverhampton-Shifnal road in Shropshire, believe that he may be the man who murdered another prostitute, Gail Whitehouse, in Wolverhampton four months ago. They have warned all prostitutes in the area to be on their guard. The latest victim, named only as Janine, was found in undergrowth.

## Better-care plea

Research is urgently needed into better ways of caring for the terminally ill in hospital and at home, the Office of Health Economics reports today (Thomson Prentice writes). It says that a growing elderly population will have serious implications for the provision of terminal care services. Studies of the options were needed within the health, social services, private and voluntary sectors.

## Bridge debt rise

The Humber bridge debt is expected to have increased to more than £410 million by the end of March. The bridge board will be told on Wednesday that although there has been an operating surplus, £38.2 million in interest charges will have to be added to last year's debt of £372.7 million. The board hopes that the government will wipe off a large part of the debt.



# Farm buildings to be brought under planning controls

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS will soon lose the virtual freedom from planning control which they have enjoyed since the second world war. In the next few weeks Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is expected to give local authorities the power to control the siting, design and construction of farm buildings.

The National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners Association have grudgingly accepted the need for the change, though they are worried that it will burden their members with extra costs and red tape at a time of falling incomes and hamper their attempts to diversify.

Countrywide pressure groups, such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the government's

own adviser on rural affairs, the Countryside Commission, want Mr Heseltine to go even further and bring agriculture under full planning control, exposing road and building projects to public scrutiny.

That view is shared by the Tory-controlled Association of District Councils, representing some 330 rural and suburban local authorities in England and Wales. Ian Jackson, its under-secretary for planning, said: "We have been surprised by the overwhelming support among all our members for farming to be fully controlled."

Despite this pressure, Mr Heseltine is unlikely to go much, if at all, beyond the proposals first outlined by his predecessor, Chris Patten, in last September's environment

white paper and set out in more detail in a consultation document issued by the department in October. The deadline for interested parties to respond expired last month.

Mr Heseltine is expected to extend to the whole country the prior notification system applied in the National Parks and the Norfolk Broads. Local planning authorities would have to be given details of any plan to put up, alter or extend a farm or forestry building.

A local authority could not stop a building going up but would have 28 days to serve notice that approval would be delayed until agreement on its site, design and external appearance had been reached. The applicant could appeal against such a decision.

At present a farmer or landowner can, every two years, put up a building of any style, design or colour almost anywhere without permission, provided it is "reasonably necessary" for agriculture or forestry and covers less than 5,000 sq ft.



## Formula to end mail monopoly

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMULA to break up the postal monopoly of the Royal Mail is put forward by right-wing think tank in a report published today.

The Adam Smith Institute calls for a gradual privatisation in which a limited number of new carriers are allowed to compete alongside the existing service. A regulatory body, akin to Ofcom in the telecommunications field, would be set up to issue licences, set and enforce standards, monitor prices and promote competition, the report says.

Ministers have shied away from privatising postal services for fear of disruption and greatly increased charges for people living in remote, rural places. The institute acknowledges the concern, saying that overnight abolition of the £1 minimum charge for letters not carried by the Royal Mail could be disastrous for some customers.

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Good vibrations: Paul Whitaker, a profoundly deaf pianist, and Liz Varlow, a viola player who is also unable to hear, enthralled an audience yesterday when they gave a recital at Bradford, Yorkshire.

The two played in an event called "Sound Sense - communicating with music" where those with hearing as well as the deaf were encouraged to join in. Mr Whitaker, aged 26, who was the first profoundly deaf person to take a music degree at Oxford University, is choirmaster at Holy Trinity Church in South Crossland, Huddersfield.

Mrs Margaret Whitaker, his mother, said: "While playing the organ or piano, he feels the vibrations on his hands and the rest of his body." Miss Varlow, from Manchester, is a member of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

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## Sinn Fein pledges strategy for peace

By A CORRESPONDENT IN BELFAST

SINN Fein promised yesterday to develop a strategy for peace but refused to offer any hope of an early end to the IRA's campaign.

Gerry Adams, the party's leader and Sinn Fein MP for Belfast West, told its annual conference that he hoped when the Gulf war was over the prime minister would turn his attention to the Irish question. Mr Adams said he had written to John Major urging a change in British strategy over Ireland.

The conference was also told by Martin McGuinness, a leading Sinn Fein spokesman, that in coming months the party would be attempting to develop a strategy for peace, but he gave no hints on the direction that would take.

Sinn Fein would be prepared to hold unconditional talks with the British government, Mr McGuinness said. The party wanted a total demilitarisation and an end to armed conflict of all kinds in Ireland. However, he poured scorn on recent speculation about a ceasefire and described it as just the same old boring black propaganda.

Mr Adams, in his letter to Mr Major, said that in Sinn Fein's view peace would come with the restoration of democracy to Ireland, and that process could begin if Britain shifted the massive resources and energy now used to defend partition to convincing unionists that everyone's best interests would be better served by Britain leaving Northern Ireland. The central thrust of Sinn Fein policy is still aimed at British withdrawal.

A debate is under way within Sinn Fein on the way the party should develop politically. Some activists have made clear that they no longer wish the party to be seen as acting as proxy spokesmen for the IRA. The emphasis is now publicly on Sinn Fein's new-found interest in bringing about a peace initiative.

## Separate murder plot trials rejected

The trial of the former Sinn Fein publicity director Danny Morrison and nine others on charges of conspiracy to murder will begin in Belfast on February 18 after a judge rejected an application for separate trials. Mr Morrison, of Belfast, is charged with six others with plotting to murder Alexander Lynch, who was found by troops allegedly being interrogated by IRA activists as a suspected police informer.

James Martin of Belfast is also accused of murdering James Fenton, whose body was discovered after he, too, had allegedly been interrogated and murdered. Mr Martin's son James is charged with unlawfully imprisoning Mr Lynch. The last of nine defendants, a man and a woman are accused of making property available to terrorists.

## MP survives

Barry Porter, Conservative MP for Wirral South, yesterday survived by 114-44 votes an attempt to replace him.

## Women lose out

Five women who applied to become Nottinghamshire miners have been rejected as unsuitable.

## Animals raid

The Animal Liberation Front says it released dozens of cats, rabbits and guinea pigs from an Oxford university breeding centre, claiming they were used in experiments.

## Health drive

The Health Promotion Authority for Wales will today unveil its strategy to reduce heart disease and cancer deaths. It will involve local authorities, industrialists and schools.

## Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds prize weekly draw are: £100,000, bond 22DZ 308237 (East Sussex); £50,000, 035914 (Warwickshire); £25,000, 26TP 867252 (Edinburgh).

## Unease grows over NFU's elections

IN JUST over a week from now, the 106 members of the ruling council of the National Farmers' Union will meet in conclave to elect David Naish, aged 51, a jovial arable and livestock farmer from Budby, Nottinghamshire, to be their next president (Michael Hornby writes). The outcome can be predicted with certainty because Mr Naish is now the deputy president.

As *Farmers Weekly*, the bible of the tilling classes, noted in a recent editorial: "The unwritten rules of this arcane electoral college... demand that the outgoing president is replaced by his deputy. Council members will not destroy the pecking order that allows them to make their slow-but-safe progress up the NFU hierarchical ladder."

The principle of Buggins's turn has been raised to the level of high art at Agriculture House, the NFU's headquarters in Knightsbridge. The last time an NFU president was succeeded by anyone other than his deputy was in 1960, and then it was by the previous deputy president.

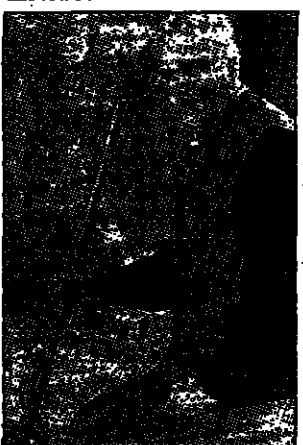
However, unease is growing that this cosy arrangement may not be best suited to provide the calibre of leadership needed at a time when agriculture has never stood so low in public esteem, incomes are falling and subsidies under threat and farmers who cannot produce food at competitive prices are being told they must find a new role as keepers of the countryside.

A poll of 750 NFU members found that two-thirds wanted to be able to vote for the president. Just over half considered the NFU leadership to be out of touch with the rank and file, and about the same percentage did not even know who Mr Naish was. Oliver Walston, who led a

recent call by Cambridgeshire farmers for one-man-one-vote elections, infuriated the NFU establishment earlier this month by suggesting that Mr Naish would be elected "by 100 men whom he has been buying drinks for at the Farmers' Club for the last eight years". He said he was not implying any improper buying of votes, but attacking the "cronyism" of the system.

Mr Naish and his colleagues protest that the NFU is impeccably democratic. On paper, it is. The NFU may be the only working model of Leninist democratic centralism left in Europe. In a classic pyramidal structure, local "soviets" elect delegates to the county divisions which in turn, send representatives to the national council.

So long as the leadership delivered the goods, the system worked fairly well. As the going has got tougher, maintaining unity has become harder. Mr Walston, an East Anglian barley farmer, worries that Mr Naish may prove too much of an old-style NFU leader but much of the discontent with the leadership springs from nostalgia for when the union was a power in the land.



Naish: protests that NFU is impeccably democratic

Building Responsibility: the case for extending planning control over agricultural and forestry buildings (Council for the Protection of Rural England, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PP; £6 inc pp)

Leading article, page 11

## Government spending: social services

### Sick, old and disabled will benefit from cash increases

THE elderly, disabled and long-term sick will benefit most from social security spending over the next three years, according to the first in a series of spending plans by the government.

The plans, which this year are being set out in individual department documents instead of a public expenditure white paper, confirm that social security spending will rise from £55.9 billion in 1990-1 to £62.8 billion in 1991-2, jumping to £72.4 billion by 1993-4. By next year, social security spending will account for 31 per cent of all government spending, the report said.

Benefits for the unemployed are expected to rise from £4.85 billion in 1990-1 to £5.59 billion in 1991-2 and £6.3 billion in 1993-4. The social security department said it is using the Treasury assumption of

Social security spending is set to increase, reaching £72.4 billion by 1993-4. Jill Sherman reports

an average 1.75 million unemployed adults next year. An extra £300 million has been earmarked for £50,000 long-term sick and disabled by 1993-4.

Announcing details of the plans, Tony Newton, the social security secretary, said spending on long-term sick and disabled had more than doubled since 1979, to over £10 billion in 1990-1. Support for the disabled would be improved further with two new benefits from April 1992 - the disability living allowance, which extends

and replaces the present mobility and attendance allowance, and the disability working allowance for disabled people on low wages. Spending on the elderly is expected to increase from £28.59 billion to £36.2 billion in 1993-4. Spending on the long-term sick will rise from £10.12 billion in 1990-1 to £14.6 billion in 1993-4.

Michael Meacher, Labour's social security spokesman, said the report raised doubts about some of the 1988 social security reforms. "Family credit (for low-income working families) is emerging as the biggest hype of the decade. The report admits that only 50 per cent of those entitled actually claim it, the same as for Family Income Supplement (FIS) which it replaced. It still takes three days longer to pay than FIS and the error rate is four times as high."

## 'Speed up home aid for elderly'

THE government's community care reforms should be brought forward by a year to let local councils improve services for the elderly and infirm, says a report published today (Jill Sherman writes).

Health policy analysts at the King's Fund Institute, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Nuffield Institute say that a decision by ministers to delay the main reforms until 1993 was short-sighted and costly. Service developments have been frozen while social security

expenditure has risen. Under the plans, money now channelled into benefits for residential homes will be transferred to local authorities so that they can provide home services for the elderly, the mentally handicapped and the mentally ill.

ALTHOUGH seven out of eight social services staff are women, they fill only one in eight directors' posts, says a health department report today. It calls for more flexible working arrangements to make use of women's talents.

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# National resentments pothole the road to Baltic independence

WHEN you drive outside the main cities of the Soviet Union, you feel as if you have been transported not just hundreds of miles, but decades backwards, in the space of minutes.

It is not just the primitive way of life and the poverty in the country, where most agricultural work is still being done by horses, it is also because you sometimes stumble on what Czeslaw Milosz, the Polish poet, called the "lost Atlantes" of Eastern Europe — the remnants of what used to be large, historic populations now forgotten by the wider world.

An example is Milosz's own community, the Poles of Lithuania. On Saturday I travelled to the district of Salcininkai, south of Vilnius, to ask them how they would vote in the poll on independence next Sunday. Since Lithuanians constitute more than 75 per cent of the population — Poles constitute fewer than eight per cent — there is little chance, as there is in Latvia and Estonia, that independence will not receive a two-thirds majority.

However, the attitude of the Polish,

Russian and Belorussian minorities in this referendum will be an indication of the future behaviour of Russian and other minorities living outside their native republics.

Most of the Polish educated classes moved from Vilnius, for centuries a Polish cultural centre, after its annexation by Soviet Lithuania in 1945 leaving the remaining Poles divided between industrial workers round Vilnius and collective farmers in rural areas such as Salcininkai. Both groups are open to pressure and propaganda from the communist party, which uses every means possible to hinder independence.

The small number of educated Poles here are more likely to support Lithuanian independence than uneducated ones. However, among uneducated Poles, I have observed a definite swing in support of independence over the past year, especially since the Soviet army killed Lithuanian civilians on January 13. In the words of one Polish woman from Salcininkai: "I may not like Landsbergis, but at least he's not a mass murderer."

Lithuanians will go to the polls next Sunday to vote on the issue of independence. Anatol Lieven reports from Salcininkai on the attitude of ethnic Poles and assesses the importance of the minority groups' vote

My opinion poll would suggest that a small majority of Poles in Salcininkai and Vilnius may be willing to support independence, while a majority of industrial workers in New Vilnius are opposed. However, many industrial workers may not bother to vote.

Polish MPs in the Lithuanian parliament, elected on Communist party and Sajudis tickets, have banded together supporting Lithuanian independence in return for which they have certain demands including the incorporation of all Polish areas into one administrative region and Polish higher education.

Education is one of the main concerns of the Polish intelligentsia. Again and again, I heard bitter complaints against the Lithuanian nationalists, and some of

the Polish leaders who support them, because they have accused Poles of sending their children to Russian, not Polish, schools. "What good is a Polish education here?" one mother asked me. "What can you do with it when there's no university? You are just sentencing your children to be workers or farmers."

This is a question which affects smaller nationalities across the Soviet Union. They prefer to study in Russian — thereby increasing hostility towards them among local national majorities — because Russian is their only passport to a wider world.

The gloom of winter in Salcininkai seemed somehow appropriate to the lives of these Polish peasants, speaking of Polish culture in a Polish-Belorussian dialect which is almost incomprehensible to many Poles living in Poland.

Even their MPs seldom visit them. Their constituents tend to resent them for this, as indeed they resent everyone — the Lithuanian nationalists for their coarse insults and implicit threats, the Polish intelligentsia for "betraying" them, even the Poles of Poland for advising them, from a safe distance, that they must support Lithuanian independence.

However, such Polish advice, given by everyone from the Pope to Lech Walesa, is having an effect. This is through Polish television, which was showing in most Polish homes I visited.

A minority of Poles want to secede from Lithuania and join Belorussia, a few kilometres away. Inter-marriage between Poles and Belorussians strengthens this. A more common sentiment was expressed by Maria Pletkiewicz, a farm wife: "We don't want to be in Lithuania or Belorussia. We just want to be on our own." Where they really want to be, of course, is in Poland — but this option is not open to them.

A similar desire to be left alone and to

live better characterises many Russians in Estonia, where a referendum on independence will be held on March 3, and in Latvia, where the national movement is debating whether to follow suit.

A majority of Russian industrial workers in these republics dislike and fear the nationalist movements, but there has been a poor response to communist calls to strike and protest. The Russian workers are obsessed with economic questions — and, like the Poles of Salcininkai, they are aware that life is even worse across the Russian and Belorussian borders. This knowledge, which has as much to do with revulsion at the behaviour of the Soviet army, may persuade many Russians and Poles to support independence — but it will be a close race.

If the results show the Russians as largely united against independence, then it will be another sign of how difficult the Baltic road to independence will be — even after the present Soviet communist and military conspiracy of the past months is a memory.

## 'Stalinist' army defied by Croatian minister

By RICHARD BASSETT IN ZAGREB AND DESA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

MARTIN Spigelj, the Croatian defence minister, whose arrest is sought by the Yugoslav army, denounced the army at the weekend as a "cruel KGB, stalinist organisation".

Stipe Mesic, the Croatian representative on the Yugoslav collective presidency, accused the army of waging a "vicious campaign to bring down the democratically elected government of Croatia", which is moving towards independence.

Speaking at an interior ministry safe house, which was defended by armoured vehicles, heavily armed militiamen and special police units, Mr Spigelj said that there was no doubt that Croatia would fight to defend both him and its sovereignty.

"The Yugoslav army may have tanks and helicopters but they lack the most important

thing, something which we have, the will to fight," he said. The Yugoslav army wants to detain Mr Spigelj on charges of terrorism and the planning of an attack on Yugoslav soldiers and their families.

Last weekend Belgrade television broadcast a film purporting to show Mr Spigelj talking about the attack, which "would spare neither women nor children". Mr Spigelj said that the film was a "stalinist exercise in photo-montage". He served for many years in the Yugoslav army, ending up as a general.

He denied that he still had links with Yugoslav military intelligence and that he was being used as an agent provocateur. "I have always been something of a liberal," he said. He accused the army's generals, particularly the chief of the army staff, General Blagoje Adic, of posing a "dire threat to democracy". He said: "Adic is extremely dangerous. He is an unscrupulous militarist."

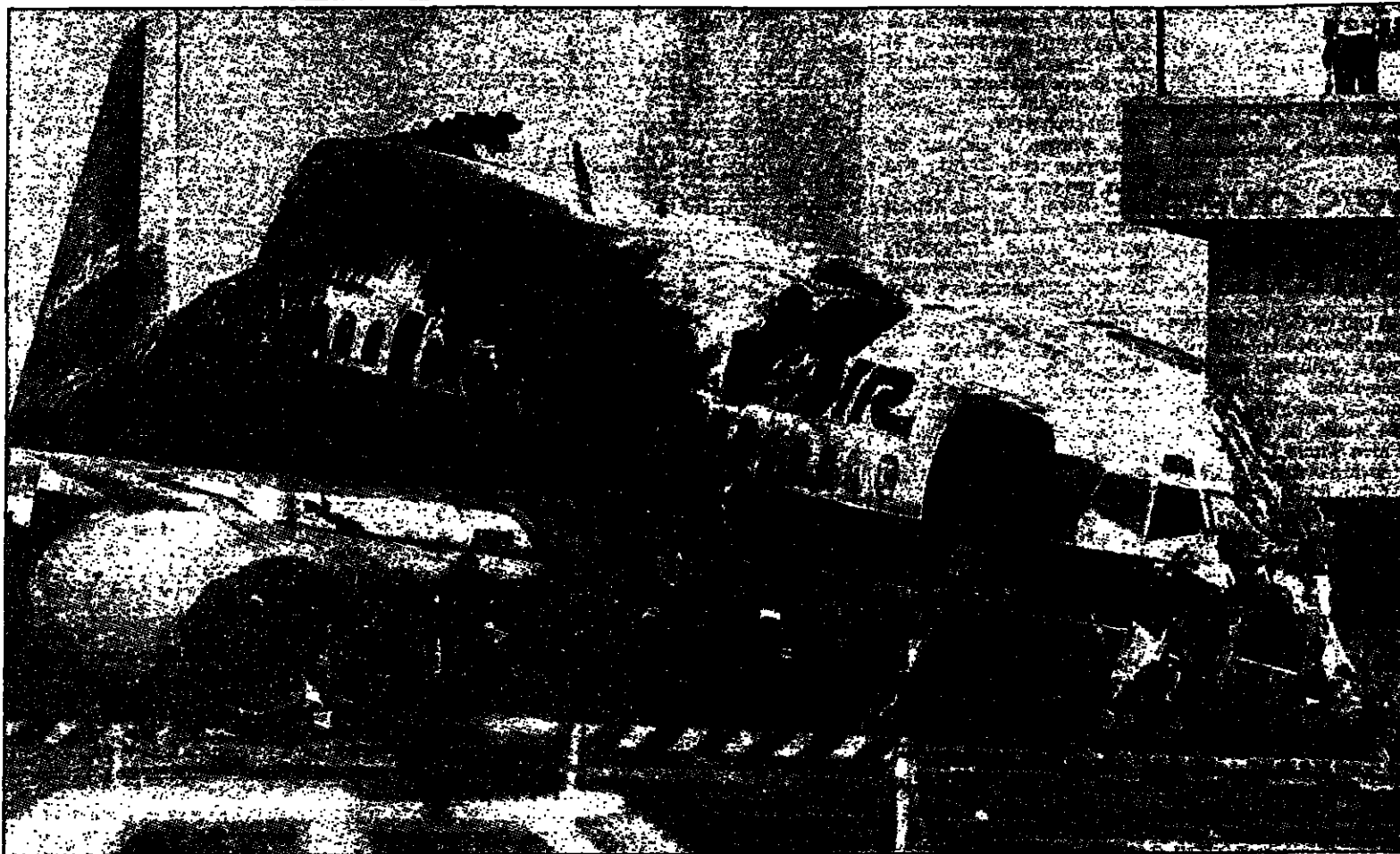
The Croatian government has called for the resignation of General Adic but the army, which is playing an increasingly open political role, has only reiterated its demand that Croatia hand over Mr Spigelj.

The war of nerves against Croatia was stepped up by Borisav Jovic, the Yugoslav president, at the weekend. He sent a message to Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, accusing Croatia of failing to demobilise its militia and reserve units as agreed last week in return for the army relaxing its state of alert.

Mr Jovic accused the Croats of breaking their word and left them in no doubt that the Yugoslav army, 80 per cent of whose officers are Serbs, regarded this breach in a serious light.

In the troubled region of Knin in southern Croatia, where several thousand Serbs are refusing to recognise Croatian authority, a rally was held on Saturday accusing the Croats yet again of plotting genocide.

In Belgrade, two reporters from the Serbian newspaper *Vecernje Novosti* said they had been beaten up by five armed members of Croatia's ruling Croatian Democratic Union in the Croatian town of Virovitica on Friday.



Crash aftermath: investigators at Los Angeles airport standing yesterday near the wrecked, smoke-blackened nose of the USAir Boeing 737 which collided on the runway with a smaller aircraft, killing at least 35 people

## 'Control error' led to plane collision

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

CONFUSION among air controllers caused a Boeing 737 to collide with a smaller airliner as it landed at Los Angeles airport on Friday night, according to initial reports.

The crash, in which at least 35 people were killed, was the fourth and most serious runway collision involving airliners at American airports in recent months. The disaster brought new demands yesterday for improvements to be made in traffic procedures around the biggest United States airports.

After listening to control tower recordings, investigators said controllers cleared the USAir 737, which was carrying 89 people on a flight from Ohio, to land while the Fairchild Metroliner of Skywest Airlines was preparing to take off from the same runway. The twin-engine, turbo-prop Metroliner, which was carrying 10 people on a local flight, had been following instructions to taxi into take-off position some distance down runway 24 left, according to investigators.

All on board the aircraft were killed instantly as it was crushed under the much bigger Boeing and dragged 200 yards across the tarmac. More than 25 passengers were unable to scramble out of the burning Boeing which came to rest after hitting a disused fire station.

USAir, one of the country's largest airlines, was withholding a final casualty figure yesterday.

Smoke and fire rather than the impact were blamed for the deaths of many of the Boeing passengers. Critics have been arguing for years that the design of airliners hampers rapid evacuation in fires and leads to many unnecessary deaths.

Investigators said it appeared that controllers may have overlooked the Skywest airliner after allowing it to enter the runway. The same control frequency, known as "tower", is used for co-ordinating landings and take-offs, but movements at busy airports have become so hectic that confusion sometimes arises.

One report yesterday said that the USAir Boeing had trouble receiving a response from the busy tower as it was lining up for landing under instructions from the approach controllers. Approach hands arriving aircraft off to the tower frequency after marshalling them to the vicinity of the airport.

## Clashes mar mass rally in Albania

Barrel — Riot police in this Albanian town intervened to separate supporters of the ruling communists and the main opposition Democratic party during an opposition rally of some 10,000 people.

The rally in Barrel, 36 miles northeast of the capital, Tirana, was the latest in a series of gatherings by the party, which is mounting the first challenge to communist rule in elections scheduled for March 31. (AP)

## Cold deaths

Athens — Two people froze to death in Greece as temperatures sank to their lowest in five years and snow blanketed most of the country. Police said the two died in northern Greece, where temperatures plunged to minus 20°C. More than 70 villages were cut off. (Reuters)

## Sweden setback

Stockholm — Sweden's ruling Social Democrats have fallen to a new low in popularity ratings less than eight months before a general election, according to an opinion poll. The survey gave the party of Ingvar Carlsson, the prime minister, only 31.7 per cent of support in January, down 0.1 percentage points from the previous monthly poll. (Reuters)

## Paris blast

Paris — A bomb exploded outside a central Paris tax office, causing damage to the building and parked cars but no injuries, police said. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. (Reuters)

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## Marxism rejected in Italy

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

FOR decades the largest and most powerful communist party in the West and the cradle of Euro-Communism, the Partito Comunista Italiano, last night ceased to exist. Riddled by internal dissent and weakened by years of electoral losses, the party has decided to abandon marxism and change its name to the Democratic Party of the Left.

Under the continued leadership of Achille Occhetto, it will now try to create a new identity and political role in a prevailing mood of intense post-marxist uncertainty.

The transformation, on the agenda since late 1989, formally took place at the party's national congress in Rimini. Most of the 1,250 delegates voted for the change, after three days of intense secret debate, but even this majority is already deeply split, in particular over the issue of the war in the Gulf and Italy's military role in it.

The extreme left of the old party, the marxist hardliners led by Armando Cossutta, announced yesterday that it would have no part of the new party and would reform a communist movement of its own.

## Faction fights rend Soviet party

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Communist party, which has announced a bid to re-establish its control over all areas of Soviet life, is deeply split both about the methods it should use and about its ultimate objectives.

Reports of last week's central committee plenum published in the Soviet press at the weekend show that opposing factions are engaged in a bitter struggle for power.

After most recent central committee plenums, a transcript of the proceedings, in full or edited, has been published in *Pravda*. This time, no transcript has appeared so far. Instead, different speeches have been published in different papers. President Gorbachev's opening address, which he gave as general secretary of the party, has not appeared in print at all.

The Russian Federation newspaper, *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, which takes a generally conservative line, printed two of last week's plenum speeches in full: those by the Russian Communist party leader, Ivan Polozkov, and the Ukrainian, Boris Oleinik. *Pravda* the same day published a lengthy account of a speech by Vladimir Ivashko, the deputy general secretary, who was nominated by Mr Gorbachev last July, and a speech on mostly administrative and managerial matters by Oleg Shenin, another Gorbachevite

in the current politburo. The substance and tone of the speeches selected by the two papers were quite different.

The speeches by Mr Polozkov and Mr Oleinik contained outspoken and at times vicious criticism of perestroika, glasnost and the "new political thinking" in foreign policy, which at times spilled into personal criticism of the Soviet leader.

"Perestroika," Mr Polozkov said, "which was begun in 1985 and conceived by the party and people as a renewal of socialism... has not come about. By juxtaposing human and class interests and giving priority to universal values, we have rendered poor service to the socialist idea." Mr Oleinik selected Soviet Gulf policy, long a source of unhappiness in conservative circles, as the main target of his attack. He claimed that the United States was, as always, acting only in its own national interests and that the Soviet Union had been turned into "a frontline state".

The speeches published in *Pravda* were both more positive on glasnost and perestroika and more conciliatory. They adhered to the familiar Gorbachev line of the need for co-operation between the Communist party and other parties or groups. Mr Ivashko said outright that the party leadership insisted on the

"primacy of human, popular and state interests over internal party interests".

Mr Shenin's speech dealt with the requirements the party had to meet in order to register as a political party. This is a procedure which all Soviet parties must follow under legislation passed last year and suggested that one part of the leadership wants

the Communist party to be subject to the law of the land and to compete as one of several political parties.

The official report on the plenum proceedings which was published by both papers at the end of last week made clear that the Ivashko-Shenin group, that is, the Gorbachevites, had prevailed — at least for the time being.



Talking tactics: a militia commander instructing army and militia officers on the proper conduct of much criticised joint patrols in Moscow

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK by George Brock

## Slipping cheques to slipshod economies

THE decision was nearly buried by the technical detail of Spain's new gift to the English language, the "hard basket o' gold". Not everybody may have noticed, but the European Community has just given Greece an awfully big cheque.

The community last week agreed in principle to lend £1.5 billion to Greece in the hope of cutting a budget deficit that is becoming too large for those who would like to see Europe's economies converge. On the same day, the French proposed that governments which did not run tight economic ships might have their community funds suspended.

Listening to the Luxembourg finance minister drone through these matters, my thoughts turned to ways in which this sanction might be extended. The first example that sprang immediately to mind was... Greece. If you buy a bottle of imported whisky, gin, vodka, rum or tequila in Greece you pay 36 per cent VAT. If you buy local ouzo or brandy, the rate falls to 16 per cent.

The Greek government claims that the imported spirits are luxury goods and can be taxed as such. The European Commission is trying to get the community judges to tell Athens that vodka is not a luxury. The community's Court of Auditors has recently been examining

It's also an alternative to the stock market



the community's Integrated Mediterranean Programmes. To judge by the court's report, they might just as well be called the Indiscriminate

Money Projects. The auditors went to Crete to inspect an irrigation scheme designed to convert olive groves to other uses. The irrigation systems were being used to water... olive groves.

The moral of this story might appear to be: join the community late, run your economy very badly and ignore the 1992 rules. The cheques will keep coming.

Belgium's war of attrition with France over the headquarters city for the European parliament booms on. The French Christian Democrats have now summoned an air strike in the shape of Elizabeth Guigou, the French European affairs minister, who is being asked to take the matter of the rivalry between Brussels and Strasbourg to the European Court.

Aggrieved French MEPs have sent her a letter saying that the issue of meeting sites in which city is a matter for countries to argue about, and not a concern for supranational institutions such as the parliament.

The fracas arose because last week a British MEP managed to organise a plenary session of the parliament in Brussels. Every representative of the French nation has been mobilised to reverse this awful precedent. Mme Guigou has written to all French MEPs and it seems to have had an effect: there were remarkably few at the meeting. Of the 22 French Socialists, only six were to be found in the building and only two had signed the lists outside the sitting.

Removing Europe's farmers from the drug of common agricultural policy subsidies means curing the withdrawal symptoms with different subsidies. Watch out for imaginative schemes labelled as "alternative farm enterprises". Ray McSharry, the agriculture commissioner, has won £2,500 grants for greyhound breeders, who happen to be concentrated in Ireland. By chance, this is the country from which Mr McSharry comes and in which he hopes to resume his political career before long.

## Gay saint claim fans church feud in US

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

FRESH oil was thrown on the flaming feud between reformers and traditionalists of America's big churches at the weekend when the Anglican Bishop of Newark published a book that says St Paul was a "self-loathing and repressed gay male".

The claim, by the Right Rev John Spong in his book *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, amounted to the final straw for the traditionalist rear guard in the Episcopal church which regards him as something between a lunatic and a heretic. "I think Spong is self-destructing," the Rev Todd Wetzel, director of the Episcopalians United, said. The Cleveland group was set up to fight the sort of ideas about sex, women and race propagated by the 59-year-old cleric. Bishop Spong argues in his book that homosexuality is

the only explanation for St Paul's attitude to himself in declarations such as "Wretched man that I am" and in his notorious instructions to women, such as "wives submit to your husbands". "Nothing else could account for Paul's self-judging rhetoric, his negative feeling for his own body and his sense of being controlled by something he had no power to change."

The book has prompted a fresh broadside from the bishop's Catholic colleague, Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark. He said yesterday that the book was "one of the craziest things I've heard so far". He has already accused Bishop Spong of "Catholic-bashing" after the Anglican called the Catholic attitude to women "so insulting, so retrograde" that women should abandon the church "for the sake of their own humanity."



## De Klerk asks nation to help him construct multiracial democracy

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

IN AN unprecedented publicity campaign, President de Klerk took out full-page advertisements in South African newspapers yesterday where he appealed to all South Africans to help construct a multiracial democracy by "listening to the dreams of others".

Under the headline "Politicians can work out a new South Africa, but they can't make it work - only you can do that", the text called for unity in striving for peace, justice and prosperity. "Now is the time to speak out loud and clear about these dreams that unite us - and more importantly, to listen to the dreams of others," he said.

"Then we will become a nation,

because these dreams are the foundation of our new South African nation. Only on this foundation can our politicians work out a new South Africa that will work. Because the people will want it to." The president's appeal followed a lukewarm response by the African National Congress to his announcement on Friday that laws "classifying race at birth, reserving the majority of land for whites, and segregating residential areas would be repealed during the current session of parliament."

Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, insisted that apartheid was still in force, rejected an offer of a say in government

during the transition period, and reiterated demands for a constituent assembly and an interim government.

"The reality is that we still have no votes," he said. "We cannot become MPs. The state organs are still dominated by whites. The police are still harassing, persecuting and even killing our people, and the government will not bring them to book."

"We cannot accept President de Klerk's proposal to find ways to integrate leaders of the negotiating partners into policy formulations," he said.

Mr Mandela said the ANC would accept that the reform process was irreversible only if "we ourselves control that process" through representation in parliament. Accusing the government of being reluctant to repeal repressive security laws, he said: "This underscores the urgency of the installation of an interim government, reflective of all the political forces in our country."

His remarks highlighted the fundamental issue in the transition process - who should be in charge of it. Pretoria insists that it must continue to govern, and lead the negotiations on a new constitution, while the ANC is striving to attain power through an elected assembly and an interim government.

Two rival camps are emerging, with the ANC supported by its allies in the Communist party, the black trade union movement, and the radical Pan Africanist Congress, and the government's view shared by the conservative Inkatha Freedom Party, the Natal-based Zulu movement led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Compromise proposals likely to be debated in the coming months include one for a committee of "wise men", comprising independent figures to steer and referee constitutional negotiations.

Mr Mandela will have a more personal problem on his mind today when his wife, Winnie, is due to face trial in the Johannesburg supreme court on eight charges of abduction and serious assault arising from the murder of a black activist, aged 14, by thugs acting as her bodyguard in Soweto in December 1988.



Little girl lost: a child crying in the debris of her home, damaged during an earthquake which devastated a large part of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province on Friday. The death toll from the earthquake, which measured 6.7 on the Richter scale, has risen to more than 300 as rescue teams recovered more bodies in the snow-capped area yesterday (Zahid Hussain writes from Karachi). The toll may rise further as many of the 500 injured are said to be in a critical condition. Officials said thousands of homes were either totally destroyed or badly damaged in Malakand, Chitral, Bajaur and Hangu districts. Severe cold and heavy snowfalls aggravated the plight of victims in Chitral, where relief work could not be started. Malakand district was the worst hit with 111 people reported killed and several villages destroyed. Tremors were felt in Punjab province and parts of Afghanistan, but no casualties have been reported. Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, visited the area on Saturday and has announced a recovery programme. In the Pakistan-ruled part of Kashmir, avalanches killed 24 people.

## Aid pledge puts Kaifu into the Diet firing line

FROM JOANNA FITTMAN IN TOKYO

TOSHIKI Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, is being attacked from all sides. His pledge last month to provide \$9 billion (\$4.6 billion) in support for the multinational forces in the Gulf has drawn furious resistance from critics within his own Liberal Democratic Party and from all opposition parties. Japan's much-vaunted harmony has all but vanished from the Diet.

Even his electorate is going off him. His cabinet approval rating, which registered a post-war high of 62.5 per cent last August, has plummeted. The opinion polls reveal that his rating is now down to 38.6 per cent.

Until last week, Mr Kaifu's relationships with his political opponents were remarkably convivial. His daily diary (which is published in detail in all of Japan's leading newspapers) was typically full of cosy tête-à-têtes over sushi and sake. In the Japanese version of democracy, social niceties are not forgotten.

But now he is faced with an international problem that will not go away and is being confronted by his first real political debate. His life has been devastated. The scripts for his normally rehearsed Diet question-and-answer sessions have disappeared.

Every day he has been bludgeoned verbally by Takako Doi, leader of the opposition Japan Socialist Party. Her accusations that he is violating Japan's pacifist constitution merely elicit wailing prevarications from Mr Kaifu. When he is not being assailed with opposition taunts, he is the target of missiles. Last Wednesday two men in the observers' gallery vented their frustration at Mr Kaifu's pitiful performance by hurling their shoes at him.

Mr Kaifu, not renowned for pithy rejoinders, mustered the following: "It is just not right to throw shoes at the prime minister." These days many would disagree.

The scenes in the Diet are not what foreigners expect of Japan. There has been mockery and mimicry. This session has made even the rowdiest sittings of the House of Commons look sedate by comparison.

Japan is swept with shame. Mr Kaifu's offers of aid appear

increasingly farcical. Having trumpeted his \$9 billion promise and basked in American gratitude, he admitted last week that he could not affirm that his proposals would gain approval in the Diet, where the opposition parties control the upper house.

Even his munificent gesture of sending defence force planes to rescue refugees is floundering. It appears that the Jordanian government was not consulted before the Japanese decision was made. Now that Jordan says that it cannot guarantee security for the aircraft, Mr Kaifu may not send them after all.

## Seoul fears missile attacks by North

FROM SIMON WARMER IN SEOUL

PRESIDENT Roh Tae Woo of South Korea, citing the presence of Soviet missiles within range of the whole of South Korea and the preoccupation of the United States with the Gulf, yesterday ordered the armed forces to maintain vigilance against military adventurism by North Korea.

There have been no reports of unusual troop movements, but there are fears in some circles that North Korea might take advantage of the American commitment to the liberation of Kuwait to attack South Korea.

America has 43,000 troops in South Korea and has promised that none will be redeployed in the Gulf because of the seriousness of the military threat from communist North Korea.

Mr Roh told the defence minister, Lee Jong Koo: "The possibility of North Korean provocation is higher than ever before... the armed forces should be fully prepared against any act of provocation." Citing reports that North Korea is producing Scud-B missiles that can reach all of South Korea, he called for thorough measures against missile attacks.

## Police in township clashes with blacks

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN JOHANNESBURG

POLICE fired rubber bullets, bird-shot and tear gas to break up crowds in several incidents of violence throughout South Africa at the weekend. The unrelated incidents involved black faction fighting and attacks by blacks and Coloureds on local officials who are thought to be government collaborators.

Police Captain Henriette Bester said a town councillor in the Tokomus township, west of Johannesburg, shot a man to

death when a crowd of about 120 Coloureds tried to drag him from his home. She said police dispersed the crowd. No injuries were reported.

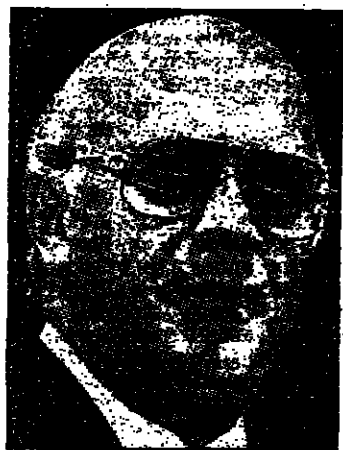
In the Bekkersdal township, near Johannesburg, groups of blacks armed with machetes, spears and clubs clashed on Saturday. One man was killed and two were seriously wounded. Police began foot and vehicle patrols in the township.

A girl aged nine was seriously wounded by shrapnel in a grenade attack on the home of a civic association leader in the Tokomus township, south of Johannesburg, Miss Bester said.

The police unrest report for the previous 24 hours said two men were killed in separate incidents in eastern Natal. Police also fired on crowds at Tidalmo, in the country's northwest, and at Ikuseng in central South Africa, said police Major Ray Harrauld.

Police also fired tear gas to disperse people who set tyres alight in Sharpeville, south of Johannesburg.

The violence came a day after President de Klerk opened the 1991 parliamentary session by proposing repeal of all remaining apartheid laws.



De Klerk: violence continues after apartheid concessions

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# Why Major should wait

Ronald Butt

Assuming the Gulf war is over by late spring, which is not to be taken for granted, and provided the opinion polls, confirmed by the May local elections, continue to give promising signals to the Conservatives, should Mr Major call a general election in June?

Because the recession will remain dire until well into 1991, many Tories want him to go quickly to the country before his popularity, which has risen sharply since the war began, wanes under the pressures of domestic economic discontent. They argue that even if interest rates are lowered (and it is unclear how long this will have been delayed by last week's rise in German interest rates), it will still be many months before there is firm evidence of a downturn in unemployment and of a business revival.

Their economic diagnosis is probably correct, but it would be a great mistake for Mr Major to opt for a June election for that reason. He could, I suppose, claim that since he was not prime minister when the Tories were elected in 1987, there is a case for appealing to the people as soon as possible for a mandate in his own right.

But apart from the fact that the mandate is a hazy concept in the British system of government, the voters would simply not believe him. They would know that the Tories had rushed to the country while the going was relatively good because the government expected it to get worse — and they would feel tricked. My guess, from Mr Major's own public words so far, is that this is also his present opinion.

Besides the economy, there is another reason why the election should wait until June 1992, the latest possible date. The Tories badly need time to reshape their thinking under their new leader, to decide where they are going, and to draw up a new prospectus. In an election this year their assets would be strictly limited and perhaps perishable.

The first of these is the advantage that Mr Major's style of speaking of the war is not Mrs Thatcher's, though there has been no difference between them in policy. The country would not have relished her triumphalist style in a war which, though it is the lesser of two evils, displays so much suffering to a watching world and will bring so many long-term risks at the end of it. Yet once the fighting is over, the credit Mr Major has earned by his deplorable manner may well prove ephemeral amid the new anxieties that then emerge.

His second advantage is that he has been seen to listen to grievances (most notably the poll tax) and to try to remedy them. Third, he appears to be a prime minister anxious to lead by consultation, especially with his cabinet — and consultation is the virtue above all others that the British have always demanded of their leaders.

Yet the fundamental fact is that Mr Major is as yet an untried prime minister, who, though he has shown himself eager to put right what is wrong, has so far had no opportunity to set out, or even

to think out, his own view of the Tory future. Four months gives him little time to do so.

We know he recognises that the poll tax as it stands will not do, but trying not to be nasty is not at all the same as succeeding in being positively nice. We know, too, that beating back inflation is, quite rightly, his overriding priority. But the return of inflation this second time since 1979 is the direct outcome of recent Conservative errors. It is not an inheritance from a Labour government or from long-standing mistaken socio-economic attitudes, as was the inflationary crisis that Mrs Thatcher successfully tackled after 1979.

What the nation wants to know now is, first, the Conservatives' strategy for keeping inflation at bay without again resorting to the weapon of a damaging recession. Second, there is a larger question to be answered if the voters are to be able to weigh the Tories' claim of efficient government against Mr Kinnock's reformed Labour party. Mrs Thatcher's achievement was to put an end to the fundamental flaws that had vitiated the economy since 1945. Privatisation was accomplished and government industrial subsidies dismantled. The practice was ended of fighting even the slightest upturn in unemployment by inflationary government spending. Market criteria

**'If he goes to the country in June, his wares will be little more than remedies for mistakes that should never have been made'**

have been promoted (and accepted even by Labour), and the trade union movement has been reformed so that it is now much less of a handicap to effective management.

But all this has left a fundamental question unanswered: what is to be the Tories' concept of a good society? Mrs Thatcher left the structure of the welfare state essentially untouched, but she gave the impression of feeling that, ideally, it would not exist except to provide for the minority unable to look after themselves. In a good free-market society, the rest would make their own provision.

She accepted that this was politically impracticable, yet the "no such thing as society" rhetoric came to haunt her. This is not how Mr Major thinks. He has gone out of his way to emphasise his social concern. But what in practice would he do? The government has to be much clearer than it is about the Tory balance between the individual and society — and that requires thinking about the priorities for allocating the limited amount of state money that individual taxpayers are willing to make available. We have yet to learn how the prime minister would set about dealing with a task that has defeated so many.

Mr Major has not yet had time to think, and the credit he has so far rightly earned both by his responsible demeanour in war and his comments on domestic policy may be transient.

If he goes to the country this June, his wares will be little more than a few remedies for mistakes that should never have been made. He says he will be his own man and he must therefore take time to demonstrate what that will mean. Even an election in 1992 will be cutting it fine.

Vivien Stern joins Labour in urging a change to a law that is unjust and does not deter

# Keep life sentences only for the few

Tomorrow MPs considering the Criminal Justice Bill will debate a recommendation that the life sentence should no longer be mandatory for murder.

This proposal, from a House of Lords select committee, has gained increasing support inside and outside Parliament over the last 15 years and is now officially backed by both Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

The present, indeterminate life sentence (the Home Secretary decides if and when a convicted murderer will be released on licence) dates from the abolition of the death penalty in 1965. When Parliament considered the bill abolishing capital punishment, an amendment giving judges unfettered discretion in sentencing was moved in the House of Lords by Lord Parker (then Lord Chief Justice). Although supported by the law lords, political pressure to provide a tough alternative to the death penalty resulted in the current law.

As a result, Britain has more

life-sentence prisoners than all the other countries of Western Europe put together — 3,503 compared with 2,688, according to a recent survey by the Quaker council for European affairs. Yet many could appropriately have been given fixed sentences. Murders vary greatly from planned and calculated killings for material gain or political motives to those committed by otherwise normal people under severe pressure and great emotional stress (including many "domestic" murders). Many in the latter category are much less of a future danger than, for example, persistently violent robbers.

Judges should be able to reflect these variations in their sentences, reserving life imprisonment for the most heinous or dangerous murderers. Offenders given the indeterminate life sentence often feel a greater sense of hopelessness than those receiving even long fixed sentences. Justice demands that we should avoid imposing this burden unnecessarily.

Judges already possess such discretion when sentencing for manslaughter. And the degree of culpability involved in some cases of manslaughter or attempted murder is greater than in some murders. Such anomalies make it impossible to defend the argument that life imprisonment is the uniquely appropriate sentence for murder.

The argument that mandatory life imprisonment is necessary for deterrence and to ensure public safety is equally unconvincing. The part which deterrence plays in offenders' calculations is much less than is commonly supposed. The most calculating killers plan to avoid detection and would do so whether life imprisonment is mandatory or discretionary. Those who kill under exceptional pressures do not normally deliberate sufficiently rationally for deterrence to have any influence. In the Australian state of Victoria, where the life sentence became discretionary in 1986, there has been no increase in homicide.

In so far as life sentences have any deterrent effect, this is reduced by the observation that they result on average in "only" 11 years' imprisonment. If the life sentence were reserved for the worst cases, for which periods in prison are much longer than the average, this would no longer be the case.

In the words of the House of Lords select committee, the fact that life imprisonment is mandatory "dilutes what should be the awe-inspiring nature of the life sentence".

The mandatory life sentence produces one other serious distortion in criminal proceedings. To enable trial judges to show humanity in appropriate cases, there is a temptation for medical witnesses, judges and juries to conclude that diminished responsibility (reducing the conviction to manslaughter) is present in some cases where this is frankly doubtful. Organisations such as Victim Support and Parents of Murdered Children favour reform of the current law in order to remove this

incentive to inappropriate manslaughter verdicts. In Victoria, following the change in the law, the number of guilty to murder pleas increased.

The present Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, and 12 out of 19 judges in the High Court and Court of Appeal favour a discretionary sentence. The House of Commons standing committee should also accept the case for reform.

Discretion in sentencing for murder would prevent the unnecessary subjection of offenders to the disadvantages of an indeterminate sentence: reinforce the awe-inspiring nature of the life sentence; check and reverse the rapid numerical build-up of "lifers" in the prison system; and produce a more just and coherent sentencing framework than the many distortions resulting from the present mandatory life sentence.

The author is director of Nacro — the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

Bernard Levin offers his own reason for America's decision to stay at home

# If it's the Gulf it must be Mexico

I loved the sight of a 747 flying from New York to London with only three passengers on board. And what a chorus of "Yah-boos, yellow-bellies!" has greeted the decision of most of the population of the United States to forgo planned visits to Britain and other European countries. But I want to present a different version on the whole-scale cancellations — one that does not accept cowardice as the reason. The problem is not funk, but geography.

Over many years of travelling in America and scores of other lands, I have come to the conclusion that God's Own Country is, by a very wide margin indeed, the most insular nation on earth. What is more, the insularity is not of the kind which has for centuries been attributed (with a good deal of reason) to us, and in a somewhat different way to the French. Our insularity is partly boasting, partly contempt for other countries' different customs, and partly the conviction that every other country is out to swindle us.

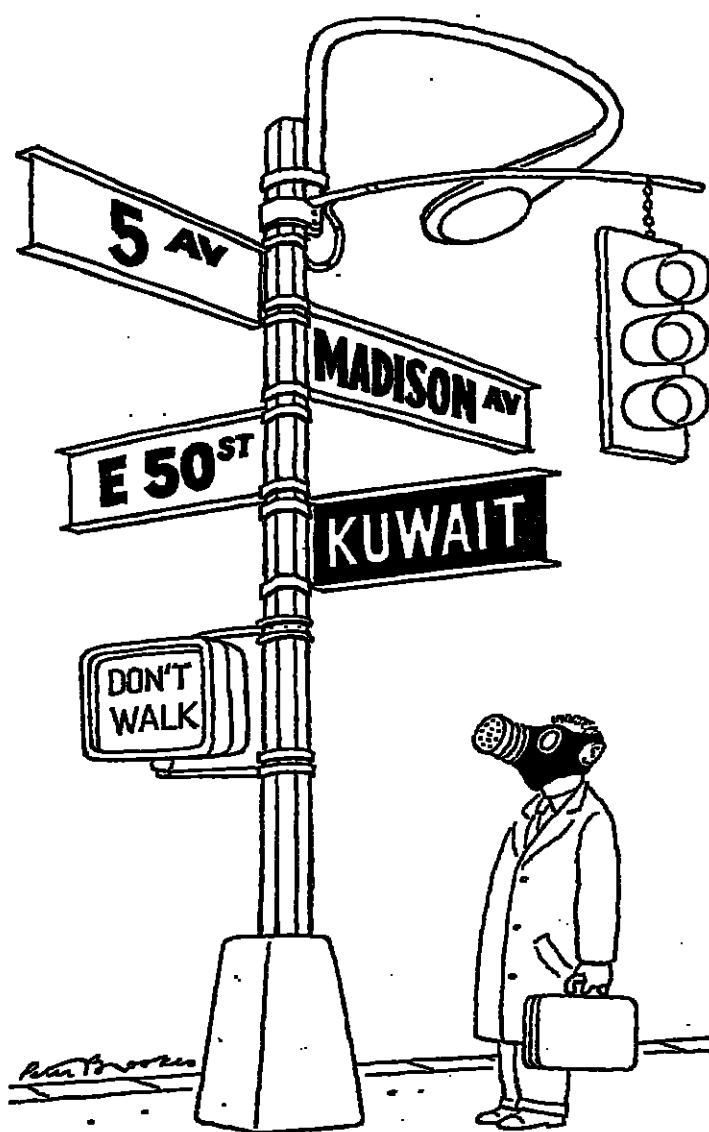
On the whole, the Americans are refreshingly free of such attitudes; indeed, they are so trusting that they are probably the number one suckers for con-men throughout the world, and their reaction when they meet a situation unknown back home is touchingly bewildered rather than angry. No American insularity, and hence the present headline flight from flying, is based on a truly stupefying ignorance. Americans know that if they go far enough westward in their own country they will come to the Pacific Ocean, and if they go to the limit eastwards they will find the Atlantic. And that is practically all most of them do know.

Well, they know about Canada, because it is sitting on top of them, and they know there is a thing

called Latin America, because it is attached to them; they know there is another thing called Asia (though few of them know where it is), because the Vietnam war took place there. They have heard of Africa, but they think it is near to the said Asia; they have only a hazy idea where the Soviet Union is located. And the whole of the rest of the world, including the Middle East, the Antipodes and Scandinavia, are located in a place called Yerp. I tell you, and I am not joking, that most Americans truly believe that Baghdad is a couple of hours' drive from London.

Landing at Heathrow from New York some years ago, there being no vacant "stands", we had to deplane and be bussed to the terminal. An elderly American gentleman, as the vehicle lumbered off, could be heard plaintively enquiring: "Does this bus go to the Savoy, does this bus go to the Savoy, does this bus go to the Savoy?" I got near enough to him to point out that before he could check in at the Savoy, he would have to go through immigration and customs procedures, but I might have saved my breath, for all he could understand. He was, obviously, used to flying within the United States, where indeed you walk off the plane without any formalities, and it had not crossed his mind that when visiting other countries, other rules apply.

You wave such ideas irritably away. Very well, but then tell me whether there is any other country in the world whose citizens, wherever they are, so frequently proffer their own currency in hotels and shops and are first amazed, then become truly alarmed, when told they will have to change their dollars for the local money. I must insist that this attitude is not based on any theory



of the Master Race, of which I have found very little evidence in America. It is, I say again, their implacably total ignorance of where the rest of the world is, let alone how it lives. The very idea of distance is alien to them: when the Gulf war started, a Los Angeles store that sold gas-masks was cleaned out of its entire stock of several thousands within two days. The customers were not cowards; since Kuwait was almost certainly a few miles off the Californian coast, it was only prudent to take precautions. Do not believe that such attitudes exist only in times of war or other crises. Read the American

newspapers, even the few "quality" ones, and you will find that you can turn several hundred pages without finding any reference to anything that is happening in Yerp. Again, this is not contempt for lesser breeds; it is the knowledge in the mind of the editor that none of his readers (or, to be fair, he) would have any idea at all, however approximate, where to find, on a map of Yerp, London, Riyadh, Durax, Sydney, Helsinki, Bovril, Edinburgh, Tahiti, Amman, Paris, Gitanes, Brussels, Tehran, Xerox, Qom, Amsterdam, Esperanto, Warsaw, Beirut, Aquavit, Cairo, Horlicks, Berlin, Athens, Marmite, Prague,

Tapio, Oslo or Harrods. But although none of them could point to these places on the map, there would be agreement that every city in the list could be found in Yerp, within 200 miles of London. In those circumstances, it is only reasonable that people should stay away from the war-zone if their presence there is not urgently needed; it is obvious that any attempt to assure stay-at-home Americans that the map is not quite like that is bound to fail.

What we should be asking, though only out of curiosity, is how this bizarre hole in American knowledge came to be there. I suppose the very size of the United States militates against knowing or caring that there is a world elsewhere. Particularly in Yerp (the real Yerp), we feel frontiers all round us; even Britain, whose frontiers are in the sea, does not think herself a separate continent. But that is not only because we are all part of Yerp; it is because from the Irish Republic to the western borders of the Soviet Union, each sovereign state, measured by area, could be amply accommodated by two or three of the States of the Union.

Those who live in a country which has half-a-dozen time-zones, and demands, if you want to cross it from one side to the other, much the same number of hours as it takes to fly across the Atlantic, will inevitably come to think that their country is the world. This does not necessarily lead to a contempt for smaller nations, but it must certainly lead to a belief that the United States contains so much of the world that there is no need to examine, much less learn about, the rest of it.

Whereas the man on the airport bus, whence the conviction that if this is Tuesday it must be Belgium; whence the consternation displayed by Americans in London wanting to go by Underground and unable to understand that our method of doing so is different from that in New York. And whence the charges of cowardice.

This leads to an intriguing question which I must ask, risking charges of bad taste as I do so. No one could possibly think that the American soldiers, sailors and airmen in the Gulf are cowards. But — or — do they know exactly where they are?

...and moreover

# MATTHEW PARRIS

"THE BEST story of all." So Youlgrave Pantomime Company promoted *Cinderella*, its 1991 production. For the 200 of us packed into the green, carpeted-iron village hall, Friday's performance was a marvellous, three-hour, Gulf-free zone.

Youlgrave is a Derbyshire village. Its annual pantomime plays for almost a fortnight. The audience arrives by the coach load from miles around and the show gets better every year. So let's be clear: I'm not knocking the pantomime. It was splendid. It's the whole *Cinderella* story that worries me. It has worried me since I was a child. The roles are unexplained, the plot is awry, and the moral dubious.

They lob you off with things when you are a kid, but you notice. You notice that you are asked to take the side of the Three Little Pigs against the Wolf, and then your mother gives you roast pork for dinner. You notice that no tears are shed for Grandma, who is summarily eaten, but we are all supposed to get agitated about the safety of silly Little Red Riding Hood. You notice the way Good and Wicked Fairies are hailed in, *deus ex machina*, when the storyteller is too lazy to invent more credible ways of advancing the plot. You notice that powers to cast spells are accorded only when this suits the action. Why the Good Fairy does not simply come on and banish the naughty people and put things permanently right at the very beginning is a question to which your mum — and, later, your Scripture teacher — never

gives you a satisfactory answer. These and many other things you notice, and resolve that when you grow up you will bring them to the attention of the authorities.

Then you do grow up. And you find that you are the authorities, and the pressure is on you to defend the status quo, and anyway you need a job, and a mortgage, and a girlfriend, and your acne's playing up, and life closes in, and you're done for. Well, my acne's gone, I've paid my mortgage, I don't want a girlfriend, and I am not done for. I am going back to basics. I want to know why *Cinderella*'s parents were so horrid to her.

It is never explained. Her father, an early victim of high interest rates, obviously loves her, so why doesn't he stand up to the Ugly Sisters? What a wimp! And where does his wife stand? Surely she, not her two nasty daughters, is the real villain?

Then there's Buttons. Now, no beating about the bush: is he or isn't he? Is it "like a brother" that he loves her, or is he physically interested? If he is, then surely *Cinderella* is a tragedy. Buttons, who really loves her, is upstaged when her girl's head is turned by a yuppie — a toff, who could have had any girl he wanted. What sort of compensation do you think all that rubbish about becoming a manservant to the royal couple would be? Salt into the wound! Or is a *ménage à trois* being hinted at: a touch of the rough for Cinders, and perhaps Prince Charming too?

The pumpkin I can believe, but how does Buttons rustle up the white mice, the rats and the lizard at a moment's notice in winter? And why midnight? Anyone who can do this sort of thing with rats can surely extend Cinders' bedtime. If the Fairy Godmother can turn a coach into a pumpkin, why didn't she turn the Ugly Sisters into toads years ago, saving a great deal of unnecessary pain?

Then there's the slipper. Why glass? *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* says it's a mistranslation of *panloisne en vair* (fur slipper) not *en verre* (glass). Presumably a fur slipper sounded a bit too British Home Stores for an English audience. But why was Cinders' the only foot it fitted?

Like other practical inconsistencies this is not explained. Yet my strongest objection to this tale is not practical, but moral: almost theological. Is virtue its own reward, and is that reason enough? The Church, and our whole moral culture, hedges a most critical issue.

Why should girls who are put upon bear their fate cheerfully? Because it is right? Or because it increases the chance that their prince will come? If in hope of reward, is that really virtue, or only prudence? There could hardly be a more important ethical question: can we, should we, count on being rewarded, now or later, for the virtuous life? If not, why did they mention future reward so often?

*Cinderella*, and, indeed, the Gospels, fudge this question, in my view disgracefully.

# How will Carey cope?

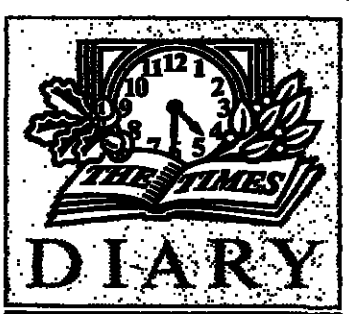
While the Church of England is without an Archbishop of Canterbury until George Carey's enthronement in April, church watchers are looking for an early indication of the style and direction of the new ministry from the preparations he is making for the ceremony.

When Dr Runcie was elevated in 1980 he stuck rigidly to tradition and was enthroned amid fanfares of trumpets and massed choirs. Surrounded by white lilies and walls of daffodils, he wore a luxurious gold mitre and tailor-made coat of wild silk studded with amethyst-coloured beads.

Anglican traditionalists had hoped for something equally grand in April. But Dr Carey, who once fashioned a dog collar out of a British Rail white plastic tray, has now raised doubts about what he calls "the trappings of worship". In an interview to be published next month in a revised edition of the book *Believing Bishops*, he criticises expensive and elaborate vestments.

"I much prefer simple robes," he says. "There is a nagging doubt that we might be sending out the signal that we talk about being servants but the robes we wear actually shout 'but we are the important ones'."

Dr Carey's comments have prompted speculation about how far he will fly in the face of tradition, for he has just commissioned designers to produce a completely new set of made-to-measure vestments for his enthronement ceremony. "Dr Carey will not be wearing the vestments used at the last enthronement," says a Lambeth Palace spokesman. "He has his own ideas."



appointed Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1987, the diocesan synod discussed selling the bishop's palace and providing more humble accommodation. Dr Carey, who is proud of his Dagenham council-house upbringing, could scarcely conceal his relief at the rejection of the idea: "It would imply that the bishop was no longer a person of account in society, while a smaller and more modest house would not, of itself, make the bishop more accessible."

● The landscape gardeners who redesigned the grounds of Lambeth Palace have told Rosalind Runcie they will do the same, free, for her new garden at St Albans. The offer has led to some dispute between the Runcies. "My husband said it might be nice to have some grass," says Mrs Runcie. "I said that was fine, as long as he can't. He thought about that for a moment and said, 'Isn't there somebody else who could?' Yes, that somebody is me, and I'm not going to."

All in the family Husband and wife Timothy West and Prunella Scales, whose careers can keep them apart for months at a time, will be seeing plenty of each other for the next few months — on stage in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*. Although opening on Valentine's Day (at the Bristol Old

Vic, before moving to the National in London), the tale of a miser nostalgic for his days of tinsel-idol glory and his drug-addict wife is hardly the most cheerful vehicle for any stage couple. "No, it's not particularly romantic," concedes West, "but it is strong and compassionate. It's nice for us to have the opportunity for a few meals together as well" — many of them afloat, for during the five-week Bristol run, the Wests are getting away from it all by returning nightly to their boat moored on the Kennet and Avon canal.

On their first Sunday off during the run, the couple, both committed socialists, had agreed to appear in a benefit for the Labour party at the Adelphi theatre, in London. Now not even that will interrupt their domestic bliss. Because of the Gulf war, it has been cancelled.

Picture politics Edward Heath is in danger of being taken down a peg or two at the Carlton Club when it reopens in May following last year's IRA bomb attack. After the repairs, the Conservative bastion plans to rehanging its paintings. One idea being consid-



chairman, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, by the Irish artist Dickey Swan. Boyd-Carpenter, who is 82, is anxious not to be drawn into the argument. "I am delighted with the painting," he says, "and imagine it will be hung in the drawing room." But exactly where, he will not conjecture.

If Heath's portrait is moved, it is worth recalling that it was Boyd-Carpenter who persuaded Harold Macmillan to appoint Mrs Thatcher to her first ministerial job as part of his team at the Ministry of Defence in 1961, and so launched her on the road to power. Miscellaneous voices at the Carlton suggest there could be no-one more appropriate than Boyd-Carpenter's old protégé to unveil the new portrait.

Buy gum One small point of patriotic pride in the Gulf: on the burgeoning black market in army ration packs, the British squaddie's superior version, with double the caloric content and much-envied bars of chocolate, has an exchange value of ten to one against its inferior American counterpart.

Disclaiming the oldest army recipe of all ("empty the entire contents of ration pack into mess tin and stir"), a veritable platoon of budding Keith Floyds has sprung up among the British troops. "The soldiers are always messing around with their ration packs to come up with new recipes," says the MoD.

Now cookery writer Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has devised a chocolate biscuit cake recipe for our boys, made solely with ingredients from the ration pack. But the true reason for the black-market popularity of the British packs is entirely non-nutritional: only they, strangely, contain chewing gum, that great staple of the all-American male without which no GI could think of going into battle.





## CURBING THE ARMS TRADE

The Middle East, according to Douglas Hurd, "is in danger of descending into a terrible arms race" and, in his speech to the Blaby Conservative Association at the weekend he promised that something would be done about it. There is, of course, nothing new about deploring the competitive sale of arms. The debate on the matter between the idealistic disarmers and the worldly-wise manufacturers was at least a century old when George Bernard Shaw devoted *Arms and the Man* to the subject.

What is refreshing is that the foreign secretary is now taking the argument so seriously. The trade in arms for profit has rarely preoccupied his predecessors. They all deplored the trade in principle. But in practice, they have tended to argue that if Britain does not provide the arms, someone else will.

Mr Hurd's new and more positive approach reflects two changes in the world. The declining threat from the Soviet Union reduces the fear that a failure to supply will deliver third world countries to communism. And public opinion has been shocked by the sight of the allies' own forces being killed by equipment which they have sold to Iraq. The rhetoric of the new world order, essential to keep the allies united, has to make it clear that this war is being fought for a high purpose. The public wants this war to end war. The politicians must respond.

The Middle Eastern arms race began decades ago. It took place despite repeated if half-hearted Western commitments to restrain their arms salesmen and to police exports of strategic components, tools and technology. There have always been loopholes such as permits for "nonlethal" or "defensive" weapons, or commitments to "existing contracts", for arms traders to exploit. All western governments have let some sensitive "dual use" technology reach Iraq. What value, then, can be placed on renewed western vows?

Mr Hurd appears to distinguish between sales of conventional arms to enable countries "to defend themselves" (an easily exploited caveat) and the imperative need to contain the spread of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Yet with its conven-

tional arsenal alone, Iraq has posed a threat to peace so grave as to force the assembly of half a million troops armed with the world's most advanced non-nuclear weapons.

Even now, an effective system of arms control will be difficult to put in place and even harder to enforce. The oil-exporters are an almost irresistible market for arms traders. Western defence industries, particularly in Europe, have become heavily reliant on exports to finance research and development. An agreement in principle not to arm the combatants in the Iran-Iraq war was ignored by no fewer than 53 countries, more than half of which armed both sides. American controls over arms sales to Arab countries will be controversial so long as it maintains supplies to Israel. Eastern Europe, desperate for foreign currency, is bursting with surplus weaponry. Many Third World countries are now in the arms export market, many of them with missile technology.

There is a way where there is a will, witness the West's years of success in denying sensitive technology to the Soviet bloc through the co-ordinating committee for multilateral export controls (CoCom). That committee could serve as a model. But it would be difficult to give CoCom itself a North-South role, since China and the Soviet Union are still targets of restrictions. The membership and remit of the Missile Technology Control Regime, so far limited to a handful of western countries, the G-7 group of industrialised western countries, Spain and the Benelux countries, could be broadened. James Baker's proposal for joint US-Soviet arms control committees could be expanded, to include the five permanent members of the UN security council.

All such arrangements — even backed by severe sanctions against illegal exports — can do little to make illicit trade in arms slower, more difficult, and expensive. If the price is right, some traffickers will beat any ban. But controls could buy time for regional confidence-building, perhaps by adapting to the Middle East the European Conference on Security and Co-operation. Middle Eastern hatreds mean that will take time, which is all the more reason to find ways of curbing the world's second-oldest profession now.

## UNBLESSSED RELIEF

Mortgage interest tax relief is an abomination. It relieves the taxpayers' pockets of £7.8 billion a year, and without it, the standard rate of income tax could be reduced to below 20p in the pound. It underlies the treacherous cycle of boom-and-bust in the housing market by subsidising purchasers to pile in when the market is rising. It adds to the price of land, increasing the speculative rewards for those granted planning permission for house building.

Exempting mortgage interest from income tax redistributes wealth from the non-home owning (and on average poorer) one-third of the community to the home owning (and on average richer) two-thirds of the population. It then further redistributes wealth to better-off home owners. In 1989 it was worth on average £560 to those with an income between £10,000 and £15,000 a year but twice that to those on £40,000. In a rational and non-political world, any sane Chancellor would abolish it tomorrow.

Norman Lamont will not do that, not in the run-up to an election; but at least this year the debate which invariably rages before the budget is proving more fruitful than usual. Margaret Thatcher berated her chancellors over their failure to raise the ceiling for the relief, but they fended her off. Sir Geoffrey Howe gave way once in 1983, raising the ceiling from £25,000 to £30,000.

In 1991, with an ex-chancellor at 10 Downing Street, the debate rages more widely. The ceiling would now be £45,000 if it had kept in step with inflation since 1983. An increase to £40,000 would cost a further £800 million a year. The building societies are pushing for such an increase, but it hardly seems likely that the door that remained closed despite Mrs Thatcher's hammering will be forced open by Mr Major. Moreover, for all the Treasury talk

about a fixed ceiling leading to the relief "withering on the vine" its cost has continued to rise — from £2.2 billion a year when the ceiling was set to an estimated £7.8 billion in 1990-91.

The serious proposals which are being actively canvassed, either for the coming budget or for the next Tory manifesto, concern ways of cutting the relief. If straightforward abolition is too daring, should it be abolished for new purchasers? Should the extra relief given to higher-rate taxpayers be withdrawn, as the Labour party has long argued? Could help be concentrated on families with dependent children?

The doctrine of unripe time will be played in aid against all such proposals. The builders will point to the current recession in construction, highlighted by yesterday's report from the Building Employers' Federation. The building societies will cite record levels of repossession. More influential than either, backbenchers in the margins will tell Mr Major that they that bath will mean if relief be taken away, while they that hath not will give no thanks for anything given unto them. They want him to do nothing in the budget and to say nothing in the manifesto.

The time is always unripe. When house prices are going up, voters demand more subsidy to afford them. When house prices are stable, they want more subsidy to get the market moving again. The government has always either just fought an election when it would be wrong to introduce new policies not in the manifesto, or is suffering the mid-term blues when it dare not risk unpopular policies, or is about to fight an election. At the very least, the new Chancellor should have the courage forthwith to end higher-rate relief, as an earnest of his intent to do even better in a Conservative fourth term.

## COUNTRY CARBUNCLES

Unless he farms in a national park, a farmer is free to erect any blot on the landscape he likes. As long as he calls it a farm building he can make it 50 feet high and paint it dayglo orange. Because of one of the least logical anomalies of planning law, there is no statutory control of new building "for farming purposes" no matter how unsightly. Yet the case for planning control in the countryside is stronger even than in urban areas.

Because of this exemption the appearance of Britain's rural landscape is slowly deteriorating. The countryside is littered with ugly sheds, huts and silos. They are often insensitively sited, built from crude materials incompatible with their surroundings, in shapes and sizes more suitable to a wartime airfield or modern chemical plant. The term "factory farming" is apposite not only for what goes on inside such buildings but for what they look like. If the trend is not arrested the appearance of Britain's countryside will suffer irreversible damage.

The government has at last admitted as much. In October, the environment department published a consultative document, setting out new proposals for the control of agricultural development. But they reflected respect for the redoubtable power of the agriculture ministry to protect the farmers' interests more than any commitment to the visual quality of the countryside.

The document suggested the extension to the whole country of the additional control over farm buildings hitherto confined to

national parks. But as the Council for the Protection of Rural England points out in a report published today, these extra national park controls are not exactly stringent. They leave farmers with their exemption from planning law, their "permitted development rights", still intact. Rather than applying this tame method of control everywhere else the government should be looking for stricter controls on farmers in national parks too.

As in national parks now, the environment department is proposing that farmers should be required to give a month's notice of new building work to their local authority, which could then step in and order them not to proceed until the design and appearance of the new building had been approved. But the authority could not stop the development altogether, so undermining its position in any subsequent negotiations with the farmer. The local community would have no right to be informed or consulted. And farmers are left with a useful loophole for outmanoeuvring planning control on non-agricultural development.

The privileged exemption of agriculture from planning law may have seemed justified in the days when home-grown food production was a national priority. Today agriculture is just one more business — though with exceptional power to blight the rural scene — and should be treated as such. Full planning control should be extended to farm development just as it applies now to housing and industry.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### The threat of terrorism and fear of travelling abroad

From Dr Robert McGeehan

Sir, Your leading article of January 28, "Americans afraid", confused prudence with pusillanimity. It is quite mistaken to argue that the best defence against terror is to refuse to be terrorised by it. On the contrary, we should take whatever measures might reduce the likelihood of its occurrence on the one hand, and the chance of being a victim on the other.

It may afford some paltry satisfaction to brave Europeans to learn that macho American movie stars are afraid to fly over for the Terry Wogan show or that it is statistically safer in Riyadh than in Washington, but to suggest as you do that sensible American behaviour at home undermines the morale of the troops on the front is grossly to distort the situation.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT MCGEEHAN  
(Chairman, Policy Committee,  
Republicans Abroad (UK)),  
Cooks Corner Farm,  
Freeland, Oxford.  
January 29.

From the Chairman of the  
British Incoming Tour  
Operators' Association

Sir, No one suggests that our countries are at war to fill Claridge's (John Cleaver's letter, January 30). One might, however, maintain that giving in to an irrational fear of travel — whether by Americans, Germans, Swedes, Japanese, covering British bulldogs or others — is giving in to Saddam Hussein's blatant attempt to create precisely such a climate of insecurity.

Last week the *Chicago Tribune* stated that the risk of an individual being affected by an act of terrorism is only marginally higher than that of being kidnapped by a UFO and less than that of choking on a snail in a café near the Louvre. It would be encouraging, Sir, if all responsible

newspapers were to take up this positive line rather than making negative remarks about our chief ally.

Yours faithfully,  
SARAH DALE, Chairman,  
The British Incoming Tour  
Operators' Association,  
18a Coulson Street, SW3.  
January 30.

From Mr Richard C. McFarlain

Sir, Please know that my wife and I, from Tallahassee, Florida, are here on vacation doing our duty to England. True, many people, true addicts of the media, urged us to stay home. After all, the media, which has made a point of terrifying itself and its patrons over the war, has warned we would be kidnapped or suffer death with refinements if we left the United States. But here we are.

So how about a few kind words for those of us who do not believe the matters of your professional peers? They are the cause of the problems and they should receive the harsh at the end of your editorial lash — not the poor things who believe them.

With best regards,  
RICHARD C. MCFARLAIN,  
The Washington,  
Curzon Street, W1.  
January 28.

From Professor John Algeo

Sir, Quite right about those feckless, cowardly Americans who are shirking their obligation to support the British economy by bringing their money here. However, look on the bright side. Perhaps they can be persuaded to ship over their dollars while they stay home themselves. Isn't that what you want?

Yours etc.,  
JOHN ALGEO,  
As from: University of Georgia,  
Department of English,  
Athens, Georgia 30602, USA.  
January 28.

### Palestinian's detention

From Mr E. C. Hodgkin

Sir, All those who know Professor Sir Nusselbich must be appalled by the news (report, January 30, later editions) that he has been carried off from his home by Israeli troops and, according to other reports, sentenced to six months "administrative detention". The excuse given for this action, that he had passed on to "various elements" details of where Iraqi missiles had landed, is, as he said, "particularly ludicrous", since from his house near Bethany almost nothing is visible and he has been confined there by curfew since the war in the Gulf started.

The more probable reason for his detention is that he represents the voice of moderate and reasonable Palestinians, which the authorities wish to silence, preferring that the world should see all Palestinians as strident and unreasonable partisans of Saddam Hussein. Professor Nusselbich has consistently encouraged and taken part in a dialogue with those Israelis who, like him, believe that a way must be found whereby the two communities in what used to be Palestine can live together in justice and amity: indeed, he had such a meeting a few hours before his arrest — perhaps no coincidence.

It is to be hoped that the British and American governments, and indeed all those who wish for a peaceful settlement in the Holy Land, will protest effectively against this stupid and arbitrary act.

Yours sincerely,  
E. C. HODGKIN,  
Flat 7, 39 Egerton Gardens, SW3,  
February 1.

### Theatre cuts

From Mrs Anzka Navrátilová

Sir, We at Malá Scená, a youth theatre with over 150 members in Zlín, Moravia, find it strangely ironic that, at a time when the Czechoslovaks are beginning to struggle with democracy and a new openness in education, the British theatre community which has supported and encouraged us over many years should be threatened with a 33 per cent cut in funding from each of its two local education authorities, Greenwich and Lewisham.

In 1978 we enjoyed our first encounter with Greenwich Young People's Theatre (GYPT). Since then we have taken part in four youth-theatre exchanges supported by the British Council and had regular visits from professional members of GYPT, who have led seminars and workshops with our young people and their leaders. Their methodology has become a major influence on our work, and the value of their support during a time of both artistic and educational suppression cannot be overstated.

We are a new democracy with very severe financial problems, but we believe that what resources are available must be invested in our young people if our future is to be assured. We sincerely hope that, despite the economic situation faced by education authorities in Britain, ways will be found not only to sustain but to extend the work of theatre companies like GYPT.

Yours faithfully,  
ANZKA NAVRÁTILOVÁ  
(Leader), Malá Scená,  
Lidová škola umění Zlín,  
Zlín, Czechoslovakia.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

### Curriculum choice

From Mr T. K. Stratford

Sir, The press has generally welcomed the secretary of state's announcement about lifting the GCSE requirements for all subjects except English, mathematics and science at stage four (14-16 years) of the national curriculum (report, January 5). It seems to be generally assumed that those schools which offer a lot of choice to their students at the age of 14 represent good practice which Mr Clarke's decision has vindicated. In fact his turnaround represents a massive loss of confidence by the government in its national curriculum.

Those schools which had established a broad and balanced curriculum for all students to the age of 16, often in the face of parental misunderstanding and sectional opposition, have been badly let down just when it seemed that a long campaign to broaden the base of

education and training after 16 was about to be won.

Her Majesty's Inspectors in their report of 1979, "Aspects of secondary education", clearly identified the main failing of the English public education system as early specialisation. I and many of my colleagues have been struggling to reverse this practice for the past 17 years, ever since the raising of the school-leaving age gave us a chance of curing the malaise of prematurely abandoned learning. Our enemies have always been the certificate accumulators, those schools who know that a "horses for courses" policy produces the maximum number of apparent successes.

Ever since GCSE O-level examinations became the currency for entry to higher education a proliferation of subject certificates has underwritten the gross assumption that all GCSE subjects are equally necessary and equally valuable at 16. Accordingly generations of students and

### Copyright for television shows

From Lord Willis and others

Sir, Those of us who write film and television scripts, books, plays, and newspaper articles have long enjoyed the protection of English copyright law.

We have followed with interest the campaign currently being waged in Parliament by other creators, particularly those of formatted television programmes. The formats of hugely popular shows like *Mastermind*, *This Is Your Life*, *Bullseye*, *Blind Date* and *Challenge Anneka* are now open to outright theft or plagiarism. It is these long-running series, economically produced, which attract the large audiences, who in turn fund the vastly more expensive dramas, documentaries and news on British television.

Together we write in support of the pressure presently being applied to the Department of Trade and Industry from all sides of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords — a pressure for the amendment to the recent Copyright Act providing protection for the creators of TV formats which is now long overdue.

When more than 100 MPs, led by Roger Gale (Con), Nigel Griffiths (Lab) and Charles Kennedy (Lib Dem), are convinced of the need for change, the DTI should either facilitate their efforts or convince both them, the House and the nation that plagiarism of game-show formats is an acceptable practice and that a change is unnecessary, therefore leaving the authors' works unprotected and open to theft as they are today.

Yours etc.,  
TED WILLIS,  
NORMAN NEWELL,  
JOHNNY SEIGHT,  
WILLIAM G. STEWART,  
JACK TINKER,  
DENNIS MAIN WILSON,  
MICHAEL WINNER,  
PO Box 15, London NW1 5RY.

their parents have learned to maximise their certificates and hide their weaknesses. In this process they have been supported by subject specialists, who advance the claim that success at 18 can only be achieved by study before 16. That in fact is true of few subjects.

With the announcement of a national curriculum it looked as if someone was at last prepared to wield the axe and clear a broad way through for all students to 16. The defection of the secretary of state means that many parents and schools will continue to encourage early specialisation. Why could not Kenneth Clarke show the courage of his predecessors and establish a truly national curriculum for all at 16?

Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR STRATFORD  
(Principal),  
Birstall Longside College,  
Wanlip Lane, Birstall, Leicester.

### Cars v. trains

From Mr Rupert Baker

Sir, When at Radley in the sixties I was always somewhat surprised at one of the master's cursing "Jehu" whenever another driver cut him up on the road (letters, January 22, 26, 30, 31).

What appeared as a form of blasphemy was in fact a biblical reference to one of the world's first roadhogs — "... and the driving is like the driving of Jehu, the son of Nimsi, for he driveth furiously" (Kings 2:24).

At master's charge of golf he was also heard to mutter the same oath on the fairways as yet another youthful thrash ended in the trees.

Yours faithfully,  
RUPERT BAKER,  
9 rue Charcot,  
Neuilly-sur-Seine,  
92200 France.

### Payment by dollar

From Dr Bent Juel-Jensen

Sir, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (January 26) is quite correct in saying that the Maria Theresa dollar was widely accepted in the Horn of Africa (and incidentally also in North Yemen) "provided the date (1756) is correct". Unfortunately he has got that little detail wrong. He would have been in real trouble in those parts unless his large silver coins bore the date 1780. That most were minted long after Maria Theresa's demise is another matter.

I am, etc.,  
BENT JUEL-JENSEN,  
Monckton Cottage,  
56 Old High Street,  
Headington, Oxford.  
January 26.

### Reform of CAP

From Ms A. S. Monk and Mr S. T. Parsons

Sir, While we agree with Mr Gary Crossley (January 30) that the proposed common agricultural policy reforms may discriminate against UK farmers whose businesses are on average larger than those of their continental counterparts, we would take issue with him on two points.

There are in fact five objectives of the CAP: increased productivity, ensuring a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, stabilising markets, assuring availability of supplies and reasonable prices to consumers.

Meeting the other objectives may conflict with the financial interests of farmers. We would suggest that

ensuring adequate supplies for the EC as a whole at reasonable prices to consumers does not require 100 per cent self-sufficiency in every commodity in each member state. This is after all a common and not a national agricultural policy.

Finally, the figures quoted for UK self-sufficiency are misleading. They refer to all food and feed consumed, not all of which could sensibly be produced here (e.g., bananas). We are in fact 75 per cent self-sufficient in indigenous food and feed. At UK accession to the EC in 1973 this figure was less than 70 per cent.

Yours faithfully,  
ALISON MONK,  
STEVE PARSONS,  
Harper Adams Agricultural College,  
Newport, Shropshire.  
January 30.

MPs minds during the Commons stage of this Bill whilst the Conservative leadership contest was under way. Indeed the Third Reading coincided with Mr Major's Cabinet reshuffle. It is perhaps interesting to note that Mr Tony Newton, with responsibility for the Bill, went on to deliver one of the shortest speeches on record (five lines in Hansard) commending a Bill at Third Reading.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN HANDFORD  
(Chairman, Employment Affairs),  
The National Federation of Self  
Employed and Small Businesses,  
140 Lower Marsh,  
Westminster Bridge, SE1.  
January 30.

### Ebb or flow

From Mr Anthony Hussey

Sir, Mr Gould-Hucker (January 26) questions the likely direction of flow in the London ring water main. In the northern hemisphere the Coriolis effect, caused by the Earth's rotation, would make the direction anti-clockwise.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY HUSSEY,  
1 Pelhams Close,  
Essex, Surrey.

From Mr H. Marchant

Sir, Suppose the main is filled to the top and allowed to settle without pumping. The Earth underneath London rotates in an anti-clockwise direction (relative to the Pole Star) but this ring of water is free to move independently due to its massive inertia.

It should therefore rotate in a clockwise direction relative to someone standing in central London.

Yours faithfully,  
H. MARCHANT,  
90 Peaslands Road,  
Sidmouth, Devon.

From Mr S. A. Cheetham

Sir, The answer to Mr Gould-Hucker's question is that it will depend whether he views the water main from above or below.

Yours faithfully,  
S. ARTHUR CHEETHAM,  
68 Craithie Road,  
Vicars Cross, Chester.

From Mr J. Pearson Smith

Sir, Mr Gould-Hucker may like to know that no such question arises with electricity. Alternating current (AC) electricity has been flowing in ring mains under London and elsewhere for many years now.

Yours faithfully,  
J. PEARSON SMITH,  
5 Broad Gap, Bodicote,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire.











## Keeping up the 'kinformation'

As the Royal Navy does its duty in the Gulf, a team at home keeps track of every one of its personnel

The naval control centre is quiet at the moment. It is three in the morning. By rights, anyone sensible should be in bed asleep, but there is a war on, and "E" watch inside the Royal Navy Casualty Co-ordination Centre (RNCCC) in Portsmouth is working through 24-hour watches until the battle is done. Because it is quiet, they are fretting a little. They have been trained to act, to move quickly and efficiently about their duties, not to sit and wait. And yet, like all other servicemen caught up in this conflict (and a good many besides), they know that if called to activity it will mean men and women are injured and possibly dying.

For the work of this centre, of the 50 or so men and women who continuously man the lines of glowing computer screens and communications equipment, the banks of telephones, headsets and plotting boards, diagrams and charts, is to keep precise track of every naval man and woman serving in the Gulf, follow them from ship to ship or ashore and, if the worst happens, be the first to know about it and the first to tell relatives and friends accurately what has happened. "Kin-forming", it is called in the abbreviated service-speak of the military: informing the next of kin or, in these less structured days, "designated friend or companion".

Something has happened. This could be as mild as a dose of flu or a broken toe, or it could be a death, as a consequence of naval action. For a generation of cold-war warriors trained in a climate of distant deterrence, this is still a stark and shocking reality. Two weeks ago each man and woman in the RNCCC was doing something completely different. Some were manning submarines about to go into dry dock; some were aircraft maintainers, seeing the last of their helicopters requisitioned for the Gulf and probably looking forward to a break after the mad dash to make them fit for battle. Still others were not even in uniform, civilian volunteer reservists trained for war, but not one like this. To each came an unexpected and imperious phone call: drop what you are doing and report to Portsmouth. Now.

So it is a pretty motley crew assembled here for this sombre task, though a smoothly professional one. But they are not sombre people. As with their comrades under fire, their humour has not evapo-

rated, just gained a little more edge.

Each rank of quietly purring monitors is attended by uniformed figures, some locked on to the massive Naval Manpower database files, recording details of a sailor's changed choice or changed address for NOK (Next of Kin), or updating the SoB (Souls on Board) list which must be transmitted daily from every ship and unit in the action zone. Others are standing by to help advise the bank of 20 headphoned telephonists who will deal with the calls from relatives or friends should something happen, calling from their own screens the latest details on any officer or rating. Still others are in direct terminal-to-terminal contact with the Gulf Command itself, and to the casualty clearing stations in between, monitoring RAF medical flight manifests for naval personnel flying back.

Phones ring, faxes pile up, classified signals are brought in by Wren messengers. As senior officer of the watch, a lieutenant commander of the naval reserve, I sit at a desk at the centre, controlling, feed-

ing, sorting, deciding, directing the flow of information. I am not trained as a staff officer. My war role was supposed to be commanding a small warship, or filling up the war complement of a larger one. I am a seaman. But the call came and I was assigned my duty.

Through me must pass all or most of the vital information that goes out to the world about any naval casualty — press information, responses to general callers on the nationally advertised naval helpline and, most importantly, information to concerned and worried relatives. Teams of "visitors" stand by around the country to respond to a call from the RNCCC. I keep the television news on continually, for I am as likely to get a first hint of naval action from the press as from the operational commanders. But I also look up sharply when a signal is rushed a little too hastily into the room, a fax is thrust quickly down from the Ministry of Defence printer, or one of the telephones rings.

Everyone knows what it could mean. They have friends out there on the ships. But for the stroke of a pen they would be there, and their mate be back here. Still, for the moment it is a quiet night. We hope it remains that way.

CLIVE LANGMEAD

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Monday morning working on the tan at Bondi beach? Recent attempts to stamp out malingering by employees in Australia were abandoned as political suicide

## Is there a remedy for 'sickies'?

Australia has abandoned efforts to do away with statutory sick leave, Liz Gill reports. But have we a better answer to an industrial malaise?

In Australia, the "sickie" is a national institution. An employee's right to a certain number of days of paid sickness leave every year is enshrined in law, and cherished to the point where entire lifestyles are built around it. The attitude to the sickie as *gratia* holiday starts at the top, in the boardroom. The rich throw their sickies on Wednesday arvo (afternoon) and go sailing. This is not a random thing: whole yacht races are organised around it. Other people go to the races or the beach. An attempt towards the end of last year to crack down on the practice in the face of Australia's deepening economic gloom was abandoned as potential political suicide.

In Britain, the sickie may not have the same status, but sickness absence still costs an estimated £4 billion a year in lost production. There have, however, been indications recently of a tougher attitude. Margaret Hodge, the leader of Islington council in north London, for instance, suggested a one-month trial during which staff would be telephoned on the first afternoon of their absence and the following morning. Such a practice, according to the management consultant Andrew Sargent, may prove highly effective. It shows that absence is not taken lightly.

Mr Sargent, an expert on absenteeism, recalls an employer who took a bunch of flowers round to the home of a sick member of staff. "He was fazed by the gesture. A couple of weeks later he did the same for someone else and found the chap moving his lawn. But nobody minded when he disciplined this worker because he had

established his bona fides with the first. You could see phoning or visiting in such circumstances as spying, or you could see it as an expression of caring."

Mr Sargent's experiences would interest Ms Hodge. "The telephone can be a tool of good management practice," she says. "It must be seen in a welfare context. Where people are not skiving you want to know what is the matter."

Islington council set up an absence monitoring system just over a year ago, after a district auditor's report showed levels running at 9.2 per cent. The system makes section heads directly responsible for record keeping and spells out standards and disciplinary procedures, including loss of pay, referral to a medical board and, ultimately, dismissal.

Different departments may use slightly different measures but in the chief executive's office, for example, it would be unacceptable to have eight days self-certified or four periods of either self or doctor-certified illness within three months without further questions being asked. Since the scheme's inception, absence levels have dropped two percentage points.

Ms Hodge takes very little time off, though she points out that a distinction should be made between elected representatives and paid officials. In fact, managers do set a good example — only about 5 per cent of them will be off sick on any working day. Blue-collar staff take off twice that amount, Mr Sargent

says, and management "hardly any at all. Basically the more boring the job, the worse the conditions, the less you feel you count, the less you bother to go in."

The reasons for sickness absence range from genuinely incapacitating

illness to straightforward malingering, with a range of minor complaints in between. It is with this spectrum of excuses — headaches, stomach upsets, bad colds and so on — that the real problem lies, Mr Sargent says. "It is the drip, drip, drip of casual absence — although I think most of the hard cases have been weeded out by ten years of Thatcherism."

Mr Sargent's company, which has produced a video titled *Gone Today Here Tomorrow*, runs regular seminars on tackling the issue. The first step he recommends to employers is the keeping of accurate records. "That way you pick up a trend early. You also make your drill clear and practical. If a worker can phone the switchboard and leave a message he will take the easy option. If he has to

talk directly to his boss, he has to be a real pro to lie."

Even though some jobs will never be interesting, Mr Sargent says, the people who do them can still be motivated. "You can explain to individuals why they matter. You can build teams so that they feel needed. You can create interest in quality and customer service."

Iain Carruthers-Jones, a psychologist with the business consultancy RHR International, believes companies can help encourage staff loyalty by giving what he terms "positive strokes". He says: "The whole company ethos should suggest someone is valued, be they managing director or a lathe operator."

Mr Carruthers-Jones believes companies are increasingly attempting to tackle absenteeism in a positive way — partly because of costs and partly because of demographic changes. "Ten, even five, years ago we tended to work on the American principle of 'hire 'em, burn 'em out and spit 'em out', but we realise now we cannot afford to be so cavalier."

Amounts of sickness absence are often related to levels of stress in jobs, he says. "A lot of the favourite complaints — like aches and pains, are classically the sort of symptoms that might be prompted by a psychological or emotional difficulty, so you cannot simply be dismissive."

He disapproves of companies which attempt to set acceptable

levels of sickness absence by, for instance, stating in contracts the number of days that may be taken without certification. Mr Sargent agrees and is similarly uneasy about attendance bonuses. "What tends to happen is that people work out how much they can 'afford' to be ill."

Absence is traditionally more common on Mondays and Fridays, but according to Dr Andrew Melhuish, a GP and medical adviser to the Henley Management College, there is little medical explanation for this. "I think it is generally just a way of getting a three-day weekend."

Dr Melhuish believes the older generation is less ready to take time off. "I think they are more likely to grin and bear it and to battle on. They have lower expectations, anyway, about jobs being interesting."

His research among managers supports the idea that they are the group least likely to stay at home. But he warns against a determination to go into the office at all costs. "It might be good from the firm's point of view but it may be hazardous for individuals because they may ignore warning signs like chest pains. They think they are indispensable, but they can be a danger to themselves."

"I had one patient who told me he had such a bad back that it took him an hour and three-quarters to get downstairs and into his car. By the time he got to the first roundabout he was in such agony he had to go back home. I told him this was very sensible and he said 'Yes, after I had had a rest I was able to get into work by lunchtime.'"

*'People tend to work out how much they can 'afford' to be ill'*

## How Sting joined Prokofiev's wolf pack

Peter and the Wolf is a masterpiece, but the narrators have been its real stars

*'They had come to Romania to distribute pencils and books'*



A school trip to Romania has its preconceptions challenged.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT  
- This Friday 75p -

When Sergei Prokofiev composed *Peter and the Wolf* in 1935, he drew together two normally incompatible sources of energy — small children and classical music.

Prokofiev, who was born 100 years ago in April, made no bones about what he was attempting. He was not a natural charmer, his monosyllabic responses apparently frightened the wits out of Natalia Satz, the director of the Central Children's Theatre, Moscow, who commissioned the work. But he made it clear his purpose was to get children to listen to the instruments, which is why he discarded the first script, written in rhyme by a Russian. Rhyme, he said, would distract the children too much. Entertainment, evidently, was a means to a serious end.

Despite all this, *Peter and the Wolf* — originally titled *How Peter Outwitted the Wolf* before Prokofiev realised that this gave the game away too early — has been an enduring success. It regularly features in concert halls, and has been made into ballets, puppet shows and a Disney film. A new recording version, with the words performed by the rock star Sting, is one of scores to be produced since Koussevitzky recorded it with Richard Hale in 1939.

The wide choice of narrators over the years reflects changing fashions. The piece has survived poor narrations, poor translations and poor performances. It even survived being reduced to 12 minutes for Alvar Liddell to record it on a flimsy single to be wrapped round bottles of Ribena.

The work's central triumph is, of course, the music and the inspired manner with which Prokofiev brought his characters to life. Who cannot see the



Cry wolf: Hermione Gingold recorded Peter in 1976

fluttering of the bird on the flute, feel the menace of the wolf on the horns?

But however much Prokofiev saw the music as the essence of the work, there is no doubt that the real stars are the narrators. And what an extraordinary pack they make: newscasters, actors, film stars high and low, comedians, singers and even a conductor or two. Where else would Boris Karloff (1963), Christopher Lee (1969), Wilfred Pickles (1952), Angela Rippon (1977), Hermione Gingold (1976), Leonard Bernstein (1962) and Johnny Morris (1977) nestle cheek by jowl with Ralph Richardson (1959), David Bowie (1978), Zero Mostel (1964), Terry Wogan (1985), Lina Prokofiev, the composer's widow (1987), and Jacqueline du Pre (1980).

The list is bemusing, and seems to be endless: David Franklin (1961), Sean Connery (1966), Michael Flanders (1959), Richard Baker (1971), Oda Slobodskaya (1962), Paul Daneman (1969), Mia Farrow (1974), Andre Previn (1988) and Peter Ustinov (1960 and 1989) have all narrated *Peter*. Among them, there have been some particularly memo-



Prokofiev felt that entertainment had a serious end

orable characterisations. Top of the critical ranks is probably Sir John Gielgud (1989) epitomising the stuff-upper lip style of delivery. Flanders is the best of the old Brits, combining clean English with a real feeling for savouring over music, while Bowie looks androgynous on his RCA front cover and his narration is a bit like that — not much bite.

Angela Rippon must take pride of place among newscasters. The version was made at the height of her fame and mounted police had to control the crowds during a personal appearance at a record shop in



Cry wolf: Sting has made the latest version

York. Her recording sold 10,000 copies in two months. These days the accent is on international sales and one orchestral recording will feature behind many narrators.

Sting's narration, recorded in Berlin last year, was added to the Chamber Orchestra of Europe's music, directed by Claudio Abbado and recorded in Vienna in 1988 for Deutsche Grammophon (although Abbado was closely involved with the interpretation). Abbado is joined by Charles Aznavour in France, Jose Carreras in Spain, Barbara Sukova, the Fassbender actress in Germany, Roberto Benigni, the Tuscan actor in Italy, and another actor, Tamas Szabo, in Japan.

With five children, Sting found market research for his performance fairly easy. He took a cross-section of existing recordings on his children and tested them on his children. "They burst out laughing when they heard one senior English actor say with emphasised vowel sounds, 'The cat is represented by the clarinet'. It was obvious that wasn't the way to do it," he says. From the start his idea was to narrate with the intimacy of a bedtime story. The

cat's miaows had to be real and the grandfather had to sound like a grandfather.

The invitation to record for Deutsche Grammophon came from Isabella de Sabata, who knew of his varied talents. "Sting has recorded *L'histoire du soldat* with Vanessa Redgrave and the London Sinfonietta, and I also knew that in the mornings he plays unaccompanied Bach on his cello," she explains.

Sting responded readily to Abbado's suggestion. "Can you make the bird higher," asked the conductor, and Sting complied. "How about making the grandfather cough a bit, so that he sounds a little ill — and as if he had no teeth," Abbado proposed.

Sting adjusted his characterisation with ease. He pinched his nose to get the duck voice, whispered the cat's entry, as it stalks through the grass after the bird, and slipped a Yorkshire lilt into the grandfather.

The result, with some of the best playing on any existing *Peter and the Wolf* recording, is fresh and immediate and makes a strong bid to jump to the top of the recommendations.

One thing is certain: however successful Sting's recording is, it will not be the last. Yet another version, with Peter Barkworth, accompanied by Aquarius conducted by Nicholas Cleobury, on Collins Classics, is already recorded and will be out in time for Prokofiev's birthday, on April 23.

The work's capacity to charm successive generations demonstrates how much of a masterpiece it really is. And it is worth noting that, despite such an obvious blueprint for fame and royalties, it has never really been matched.

NICOLAS SOAMES  
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# Stuck in a broken nightmare

**THEATRE**  
**Fallen Angel**  
Gate, Notting Hill

THIS haunting one-hander has been pieced together from the works of a German writer who embodies the divisions of his nation and our century. Franz Fühmann was the son of a Nazi, a member of the Hitler Youth and, at the war's end, a 23-year-old soldier. But he fled to the Russians rather than west to the Americans, as he wanted. He became converted to communism by the Stalinists and, eventually, a cultural apparition in East Germany.

An illustration, perhaps, of how susceptible some men are to ideological brainwashing and the need to obey? That is a question which will surely surface in the mind of many spectators as they hear Boyd Clark's Fühmann reminiscence and ruminate his way through Manfred Weber's adaptation. But the evidence is incomplete and the voice sensitive. We do not learn what Fühmann felt about the suppression of the Berlin uprising of 1953. Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin, or the events that followed. The text and performance do not, however, suggest a man at ease with either history or himself.

Julia Bardsey's production transforms the Bush into what looks like a schoolroom and the programme says "a lecture room, East Berlin, 1970". Overhead lamps substitute for conventional stage lighting, a plain desk for decor. On comes Clark, a stocky, abstracted figure in specs, to give a talk that often sounds as if he is communing with himself rather than addressing us. He humbles, falls silent, wanders off to answer a phone or, at one casually symbolic



Facing the unfaceable: Boyd Clark as Franz Fühmann in *Fallen Angel*, adapted by Manfred Weber

moment, to wash his hands and face. He also shows slides: engravings of St Michael, who so notably failed to save Germany in 1945, photos of the dead and the cadaverous at Nazi death camps. By the end, it is rather like hearing a sleepwalker describe a nightmare while he is still having it. One moment he is recalling his wanderings through a desolate Europe, the next musing about his obsession, the expressionist poet Georg Trakl, who went half-mad and succumbed to an overdose of cocaine in the first world war. This

creates a certain confusion, since it is not always clear which lines come from Fühmann, which from Weber, and which from Trakl. Who is responsible for such florid utterances as "the colour of madness is black and it flows down-stream to the north where the slaughterhouses are"? Yet bad dreams are like that: full of clutter, jumps of sense and unpinpointable pain.

The form has its limitations. A more traditional "lecture" would doubtless tell us more about Fühmann's life, Trakl's broken-

hearted verse, the intellectual pull of communism, and the terrible allure of Hitlerism. Lines like "the Auschwitz ovens glowed like Greek temples with roses entwined around them" hardly explain the death camps — but then, what can? A poetic memoir packed with exhaustion, grief and vague feelings of fragmentation is one way of facing the unfaceable. For an audience, it is also one way of understanding the postindustrial German mind.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

**THEATRE**  
**Where Julie Gone**  
Hen & Chickens, Islington

SIMON Barnes and Jaqueline Harrison run the Llandovery Theatre Company, putting on three seasons of plays a year in a converted chapel. A recent play did a whitewash on Richard III (Tyrryl lived in the nearby castle) but this solo piece is their first production to show in London, written by him, beautifully performed by her.

Haltingly into the bedroom of some unidentified institution — a bed, a table, a chair — steps a woman in her early middle-age. All she admits to wanting is a cup of tea but no sugar, please, since she was once a ballet dancer. She can certainly hum a tune from *Swan Lake*, but are we to believe her story?

"Why, 'tis a body," she murmurs, and a note of wonder has crept into Harrison's voice as she stares down at her fair Isle curly and khaki slacks. The tea cosy cap entirely covers her hair, and seems to isolate her eyes, nose and

mouth close together in the centre of a wide, colourless face. Though Barnes does not indicate a pretext for the confession that follows, its absence is hardly felt: Harrison's shy smiles, wry tone of voice and air of baffled curiosity charge the telling of her life story with a momentum that carries the play forward from one bitersweet episode to the next.

"We never went in for wife-swapping," she remarks, flatly dismissing the possibility of relief from her boring Watford marriage. The social distinction between living in a crescent and a close is nicely drawn.

During the interval a cup of tea has appeared on the table, the dreadful taste of which spurs an account of her time as a waitress. The elements hook together as tightly as this, leading from actress to stripper to model to prisoner. Real alarm colours her account of the prostitutes sharing her cell taught her. Finally, we are back in her mooned childhood, where Barnes (who also directs) links her opening words to the infants' game that gives this artful play its eloquent title.

JEREMY KINGSTON

**CONCERT**  
**Philharmonia, EIC/Boulez**  
Festival Hall/Radio 3

ALL the reference books agree that Elliott Carter is 82, and so one has to believe it. But he looks 15 years younger, and he composes still with all the energy and ambition of a man in his prime.

His *Anniversary* of two years ago, lasting only a few minutes but brimming with wit and drive, was the passionate proof in this opening concert of the South Bank's Carter celebration: a piece of steaming long lines in the strings, with whirring of swifter thought going on all around. It was a bit like watching the tide come in: the general movement is clear, powerful and inevitable, but it accommodates in its largeness all kinds of contrary flow. The orchestral sound, even with so much going on, is harmonious; the complexity is whole and cogent.

So it is too in the 1976 song cycle *A Mirror on Which to Dwell* for soprano and small orchestra, of which there was a beautifully tuned and detailed performance in

the first part of the concert from Phyllis Bryn-Julson and the Ensemble InterContemporain under the evening's conductor, Pierre Boulez. Bryn-Julson's brightness and certainty made the vocal lines seem as simple as nursery rhymes, and indeed there is something child-like in the freshness of Carter's imagination, even though that imagination is fed by a highly sophisticated technique and a full awareness of 20th-century musical history. Nobody else could use unusual fingerings, double-stopings and cross-metres in an oboe part to represent the run of a sandpaper.

The advantage of having two orchestras share the concert became clear at the end when the Philharmonia turned from Carter to give a magnificent performance of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. At the start Boulez was dealing more generously with the music, with slightly slower speeds, more succulent sounds, and a sense of the insistent chords marked in with a softer pencil. And though the climactic dances of each half were as fast as ever, the hand was still open to show, and to enjoy, more of what was going on.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

**ROCK**  
**Killing Joke**  
Astoria

KILLING Joke never did have any business flitting with the mainstream, but for a moment in the mid-Eighties, at the time of their only proper hit, "Love Like Blood", they looked as if they were poised for massive crossover success. A uniquely abrasive collection of individuals, they all started walking out on each other, and the opportunity was muffed. After various "solo projects", they reconvened and last year released *Extremities*, *Dirr* and *Various Repressed Emotions*, an awesome

binge of rogue hardcore noise, offered perhaps as some sort of atonement for their earlier dalliance with the Mammon of daytime radio.

Returning at last to active performing duty, they cooked up a stage show that distilled this reacquainted disaffection with a vengeance. They shambled onto a collage of taped quotes by George Bush and others on the subject of the Gulf war. A slow, shuffling, funk beat led into "Inside the Termitic Mound" and George's glib, overcranked guitar tone combined with Paul Raven's pugnacious bass to produce a gathering storm of noise and a brooding atmosphere which could have been cut with a knife. "Money is not our God" broke

in with a staggering impetus. Singer Jez Coleman, his face streaked with the familiar black warpaint, eyes agog, body shaking as if gripped by a fever, raged with demagogic fury while George's glissando rained down like streaks of napalm. The pell-mell pace continued unabated with "Extremities" on through "Wardens" and into "Intravenous" which climaxed with a cacophony of noise and flashing lights.

More strange nastiness ensued with "The Beautiful Dead" and "The Age of Greed". A fire-eating juggler sent spumes of fire across the audience's heads and threw flaming batons around, and pretty soon the air was thick with the smell of burning kerosene. Coleman, his demonic face caught in a

single white light, ranted on about the war, the ozone layer and the "aspirations of materialism". The drummer Martin Atkins's limbs flailed like the piston arms on a steam train and chunks of ice (diligently supplied by an assistant) flew up in all directions as he hammered his drum heads.

The group managed the whole thing magnificently, employing controlled bursts of overkill to produce a sense of high drama and creating a musical spectacle of supreme, uncaring arrogance. In rock music the bridge between anger and euphoria is short indeed. Plainly, it has taken Killing Joke more than ten years to find out just how angry they can get.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## NEW RELEASES

**DADDY'S DYN** (12): Family squabbles down in Texas strong performances, but then stage-bound. *Beau Bridges, Beverly D'Angelo, Charles Hallahan, Cameron Court Road* (071 638 8148).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (S) on release across the country.**

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promising Director Steve De Juretti. *Andrew Edwards, More Warrington, Cannon Court Road* (071 638 8148).

**NARROW MARCH** (12): Cal and mouse games, a film with a heart, a heart, a heart. *Director, Peter Jackson, Cannon Court Road* (071 638 8148).

**THE NASTY GIRL** (12): Provocative, funny, a film with a heart, a heart, a heart. *Director, Peter Jackson, Cannon Court Road* (071 638 8148).



# CHANNEL

6:00 The Channel 4 Daily. Including extended coverage of the Gulf war, plus home news, business daily, arts and entertainment

9:25 Schools

12:00 News summary

12:05 All Muck and Magic. Popular organic gardening series (T). (Teletext)

12:35 Business Daily. Financial and business news service presented by the Channel 4 News

1:00 Sesame Street. Learning fun for pre-school children

2:00 Film: The Middle Watch (1989, b/w). Frenzied farce with Key Walsh as the fiancée of a ship's captain who, with her friend Geri

Gynt, is stranded on board ship after a reception, the gruffly  
 3.35 megalomaniac captain, played by Jack Buchanan, is furious – until he  
 meets Gynt. Directed by Thibaut Hurnu  
 Crime Does Not Pay: Glee Till I Die (1937, b/w) starring Clay  
 4.00 Cullen, as a man whose husband and wife who pose as  
 traveling chimney workers for a bogus cause. Directed by Felix Faist  
 4.00 Traveling, Alan Cullen goes on a day trip to Budapest (f)  
 4.30 Countdown, Words and numbers game  
 5.00 The Late Late Show. Popular Dublin music and chat show hosted  
 by Gay Byrne  
 6.00 Roseanne. Overweight domestic comediess with Roseanne Barr and  
 her mother as she goes to work, her husband and wife with (r)

6.30: Tonight With Jonathan Ross. The guests are singer Roger Daltrey, actress Margi Clarke and *Bulldozer* presenter Jim Bowen  
7.00 Channel 4 News: (Teletext)  
7.50 Comments: An individual's view.  
8.00 Brookside. Drama set in a suburban Liverpool cul-de-sac.  
(Teletext)  
8.30 My Two Dads: Flat American comedy about a young girl and her two fathers



**Meeting a desperate need for women: Erin Pizzey (9.00pm)**

**9.00 Cutting Edge: Sanctuary.** **5** **11** **12** **13** **14** **15** **16** **17** **18** **19** **20** **21** **22** **23** **24** **25** **26** **27** **28** **29** **30** **31** **32** **33** **34** **35** **36** **37** **38** **39** **40** **41** **42** **43** **44** **45** **46** **47** **48** **49** **50** **51** **52** **53** **54** **55** **56** **57** **58** **59** **60** **61** **62** **63** **64** **65** **66** **67** **68** **69** **70** **71** **72** **73** **74** **75** **76** **77** **78** **79** **80** **81** **82** **83** **84** **85** **86** **87** **88** **89** **90** **91** **92** **93** **94** **95** **96** **97** **98** **99** **100** **101** **102** **103** **104** **105** **106** **107** **108** **109** **110** **111** **112** **113** **114** **115** **116** **117** **118** **119** **120** **121** **122** **123** **124** **125** **126** **127** **128** **129** **130** **131** **132** **133** **134** **135** **136** **137** **138** **139** **140** **141** **142** **143** **144** **145** **146** **147** **148** **149** **150** **151** **152** **153** **154** **155** **156** **157** **158** **159** **160** **161** **162** **163** **164** **165** **166** **167** **168** **169** **170** **171** **172** **173** **174** **175** **176** **177** **178** **179** **180** **181** **182** **183** **184** **185** **186** **187** **188** **189** **190** **191** **192** **193** **194** **195** **196** **197** **198** **199** **200** **201** **202** **203** **204** **205** **206** **207** **208** **209** **210** **211** **212** **213** **214** **215** **216** **217** **218** **219** **220** **221** **222** **223** **224** **225** **226** **227** **228** **229** **230** **231** **232** **233** **234** **235** **236** **237** **238** **239** **240** **241** **242** **243** **244** **245** **246** **247** **248** **249** **250** **251** **252** **253** **254** **255** **256** **257** **258** **259** **260** **261** **262** **263** **264** **265** **266** **267** **268** **269** **270** **271** **272** **273** **274** **275** **276** **277** **278** **279** **280** **281** **282** **283** **284** **285** **286** **287** **288** **289** **290** **291** **292** **293** **294** **295** **296** **297** **298** **299** **300** **301** **302** **303** **304** **305** **306** **307** **308** **309** **310** **311** **312** **313** **314** **315** **316** **317** **318** **319** **320** **321** **322** **323** **324** **325** **326** **327** **328** **329** **330** **331** **332** **333** **334** **335** **336** **337** **338** **339** **340** **341** **342** **343** **344** **345** **346** **347** **348** **349** **350** **351** **352** **353** **354** **355** **356** **357** **358** **359** **360** **361** **362** **363** **364** **365** **366** **367** **368** **369** **370** **371** **372** **373** **374** **375** **376** **377** **378** **379** **380** **381** **382** **383** **384** **385** **386** **387** **388** **389** **390** **391** **392** **393** **394** **395** **396** **397** **398** **399** **400** **401** **402** **403** **404** **405** **406** **407** **408** **409** **410** **411** **412** **413** **414** **415** **416** **417** **418** **419** **420** **421** **422** **423** **424** **425** **426** **427** **428** **429** **430** **431** **432** **433** **434** **435** **436** **437** **438** **439** **440** **441** **442** **443** **444** **445** **446** **447** **448** **449** **450** **451** **452** **453** **454** **455** **456** **457** **458** **459** **460** **461** **462** **463** **464** **465** **466** **467** **468** **469** **470** **471** **472** **47**

10.00 The Managangers. A second run for Stan Hey's enjoyable drama about a woman (Cherie Lunghi) who manages a struggling second class restaurant. The film shows heart-warming life as captain as the average mate. She is desperate to find another sucker after the sale of Charlie O'Keefe but the club chairman announces that there is no money for new players. So, against the advice of her colleagues, she takes a gamble and brings in a young player from the reserves. (V) (Teletext)

● **CHOICE:** A film from Ireland makes a persuasive case on behalf of the country's 20,000 travellers who live on the edge of society and are largely rejected by it. Apartheid is once again invoked as a parallel: Like the South African blacks; the Irish travellers are regarded as inferior beings, kept separate and denied basic rights and liberties. Most of the film is about a young man, running for electricity, their refuse is not collected and their infant mortality rate is three times as high as for the rest of the population. Typocast as dirty, parasitic, incompetent and shiftless, they insist they are none of these things but are persecuted just because they are different. The film is partisan, passionate and cogently argued.

norms is not an easy matter and it is pity that the much-criticized  
resh authorities were not given the chance to put their side.

12.00 Channel 4 News. Extended coverage of the situation in the Gulf.  
Ends at 2:00am

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11.15 Coffee Break 11.30 Everyday Work-out  
12.15 The Food Food Show 12.15pm  
Sally Jessy Raphael 12.30 Where's Coffee  
1.10 Saturday Night Takeaway 1.25 The One  
1.50 2.00 Doreen Court 2.25 It's Her  
LifeStyle 2.35 Country Ways 3.05 Raffle's  
3.15

wrong when she thinks that she has  
escaped the ghostly tormentor that terror-  
ized her family in the past three years. Burns  
starring  
10.00 Ghost Bait II: Cajun Justice (1978):  
Honor and death in a swampy  
Louisiana bayou.

[illegible]

Today 11.30 Italian Football

1.00 The A-Team (1987): A bunch of college kids have a wild party, starting Keanu Reeves

2.00 The Movie Show

3.00 Potemkin S (1966): Carol Anne is

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# Move to scrap fixed life term for murderers

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR will tomorrow revive demands to scrap the mandatory life sentence for murder, to the embarrassment of ministers who know that Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, and 12 of the 19 judges in the High Court and Court of Appeal also favour abolition.

Opposition MPs believe ministers have seriously underestimated the number of MPs and peers who believe judges should be able to impose determinate or indeterminate jail terms when sentencing murderers. While pessimistic about the short-term chances of converting the government to their cause, they believe their calls could present ministers with some difficulty when the criminal justice bill goes before the Lords next month.

Tomorrow, the Commons committee studying the bill will debate

a proposed clause moved by Labour calling for the mandatory penalty, introduced in the mid-1960s when capital punishment was abolished, to be reserved for the most heinous murders. If, as expected, the clause is rejected, Labour peers will revive the issue in the upper House in the hope of winning the open support of the Law Lords.

In October 1989, an all-party Lords committee concluded that the mandatory life sentence for murder could not be justified on grounds of natural justice, public protection or deterrence. Courts should be able to impose fixed or life terms when dealing with murderers, it said, noting that 12 of Britain's most senior judges favoured discretionary sentences for murder.

The main argument put forward by the committee, whose members included Lord Ackner, the Law Lord, was that it was unfair to impose a standard punishment for an offence that could range from the most callous, premeditated killing to an act committed under great duress. The latter, it was argued, could sometimes be less grave than attempted murder, manslaughter or causing grievous bodily harm, yet the offender could end up with a much longer prison term.

The committee also claimed that the mandatory approach reduced the deterrent value of life sentences as, in practice, most murderers were released after about ten years. Restricting life imprisonment to the worst cases would ensure that the average time served by "lifers" would be substantially increased.

Yesterday, Barry Sheerman, Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said: "Violent and sexual offenders should receive tough sentences, but we think courts should always have the option to consider the exact circumstances of the nature of a crime. The mandatory life term for murder is too much of a blunt instrument." While accepting that a few Labour backbenchers felt uneasy about the policy towards life sentences, Mr Sheerman maintained that most of the party supported it.

Moves to abolish the mandatory penalty are also backed by the Penal Affairs Consortium, a pressure group representing 18 organisations including the Prison Governors' Association, Prison Officers' Association and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro). In a report published today, Nacro says Britain has around 3,500 life-sentence prisoners, far more than any other western European country. The main reason for this, it says, is the fixed penalty for murder.

## Hurd urges end of sanctions

Continued from page 1

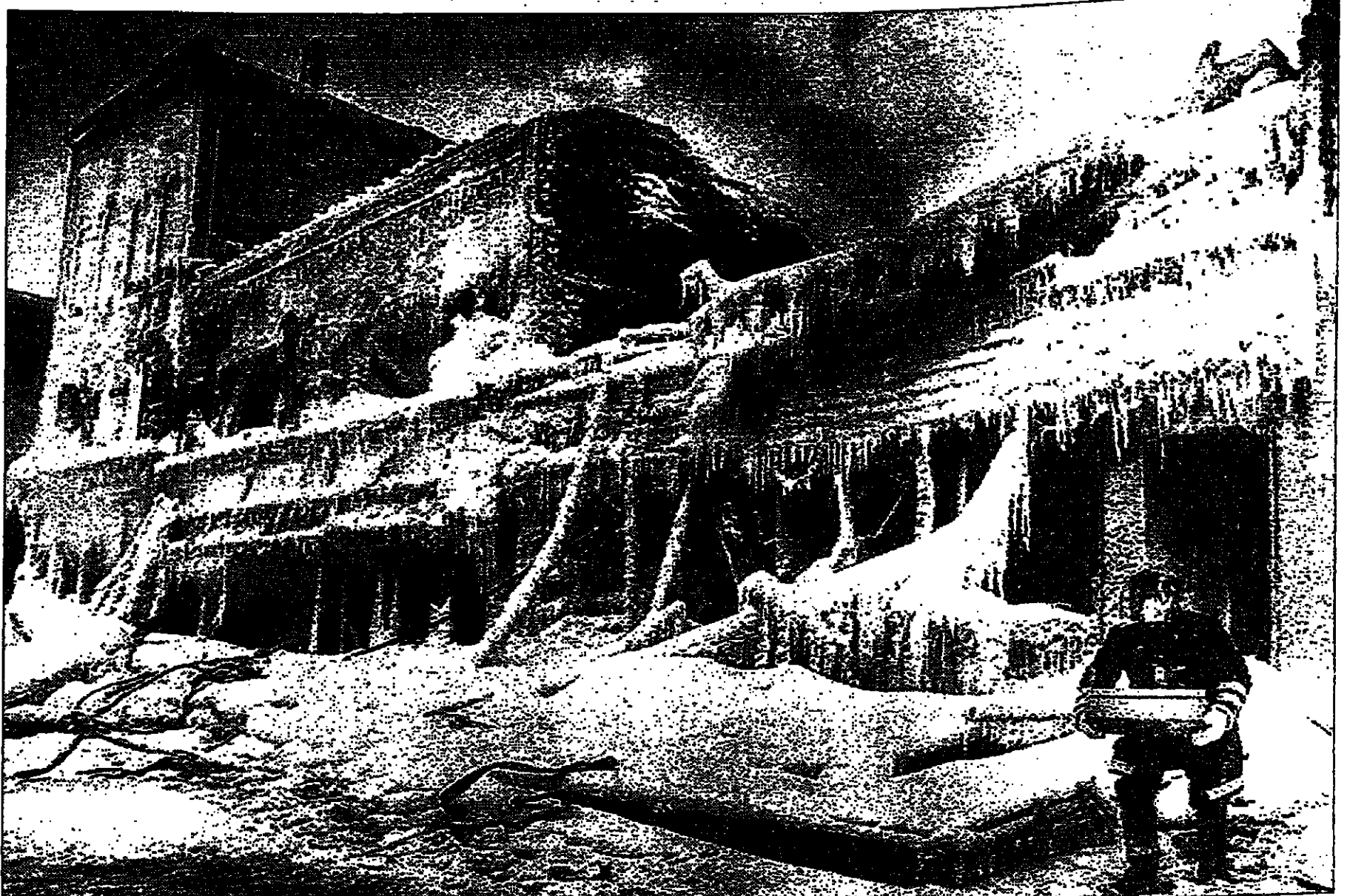
all again. Indeed, they do have to look at it again. The point is that it is quite clear now that South Africa is heading to a non-apartheid South Africa. Is that new South Africa going to be economically depressed or is it going to have a chance? It will have a brighter chance if sanctions are relaxed now."

However, Mr Hurd's proposal appeared to back away from a commitment by the European Community in December to wait until legislation had been formally tabled before lifting sanctions on South Africa.

Britain argued strongly last year that the community should respond immediately to the steps already taken to dismantle apartheid and should reward President de Klerk for his courage. Britain unilaterally announced a lifting of some voluntary sanctions, but pressed the rest of the community to move faster in dropping those voted by all Twelve. So far, only the ban on private investment has now been dropped.

## Sir Monty Finniston dies

SIR Monty Finniston, the industrialist and former chairman of British Steel, died at the weekend. He was 78. He had been admitted to the Wellington hospital in London last week after suffering a heart attack.



Fire and ice: a fireman in Berlin, New Hampshire, salvages property from one of four buildings destroyed by a blaze in temperatures that dropped to 18 below zero

## Iraqi innocents caught in firing line

Richard Beeston, in Baghdad, reports that allied bombing, despite its accuracy, is taking a high toll among civilians



THE bomb craters, filled to the brim with water, sat like giant swimming pools installed in the squalid breezeblock homes of al-Haswah, due south of Baghdad.

"We got most of the dead and wounded out of the rubble but some are still buried below," said Faza Ibrahim Hussein, a housewife whose home was one of the few in the area not to be severely damaged.

Locals said 150 homes in the farming community were destroyed or damaged and that 35 people were killed and 50 injured, when the bombing began at midnight on January 23.

The attack on al-Haswah is one of the most graphic examples of several instances when allied air strikes on Iraq have resulted in damage to civilian areas, and death and injury to scores of non-combatants. In spite of a general acceptance by many Iraqis that the allies have gone to great lengths to avoid harming civilians, bombing missions have cost hundreds of civilian lives.

Nameh Mifri, a resident of the southern city of Hilla, near the

ancient ruins of Babylon, said yesterday that he lost five members of his family during an air attack on January 26 when several missiles hit the al-Husseini residential district. Pointing to one of a row of destroyed homes, he said: "Bush claims to be a democratic leader but look at this, it is inhuman. If he has the courage, he should go to the battlefields and fight troops, not kill civilians."

Although Iraqis accuse the West of trying to terrorise the civilian population, it seems more likely that allied bombers were inaccurate, provided with faulty intelligence or were attacking genuine military targets which were removed before our visit.

The Iraqi authorities, keen to capitalise on the effect that coverage of the attacks will have

on Western public opinion, this weekend took journalists to four sites outside Baghdad and one in the capital where residential areas, a school, a clinic and some food warehouses had been hit. Because of censorship restrictions no details can be revealed about attacks on military objectives.

In the town of Diwaniyah, south of Baghdad, an entire two-block souk (market), a hotel and several blocks of flats were wrecked. It was clear that the intended target was the telecommunications centre, which was successfully destroyed by largely accurate bombing, but unfortunately it was located in a heavily built-up area of the town.

A wrecked powdered milk factory in the Abu Ghreid district of Baghdad was apparently destroyed because it was painted in

camouflage, located near anti-aircraft batteries and began production only two months ago when American spy satellites were combing the country for any signs of Iraqi military preparations for war. The American military still maintains that the site was a chemical weapons facility although a close inspection reveals that it was without doubt producing nothing more lethal than powdered milk.

The problem for allied air forces in accurately identifying their targets is compounded by the Iraqi tactic of moving government offices and military hardware out of their usual location.

Cruise missiles, normally considered one of the most accurate weapons in the allied arsenal, have also caused civilian casualties, usually because Iraqi anti-aircraft fire has succeeded in hitting the projectile and throwing it off course.

"At the beginning many Iraqis believed that the West was trying to avoid killing the Iraqi people," said one resident of Baghdad. "They have to be careful not to change that perception."

## Food prices triple in Kuwait City

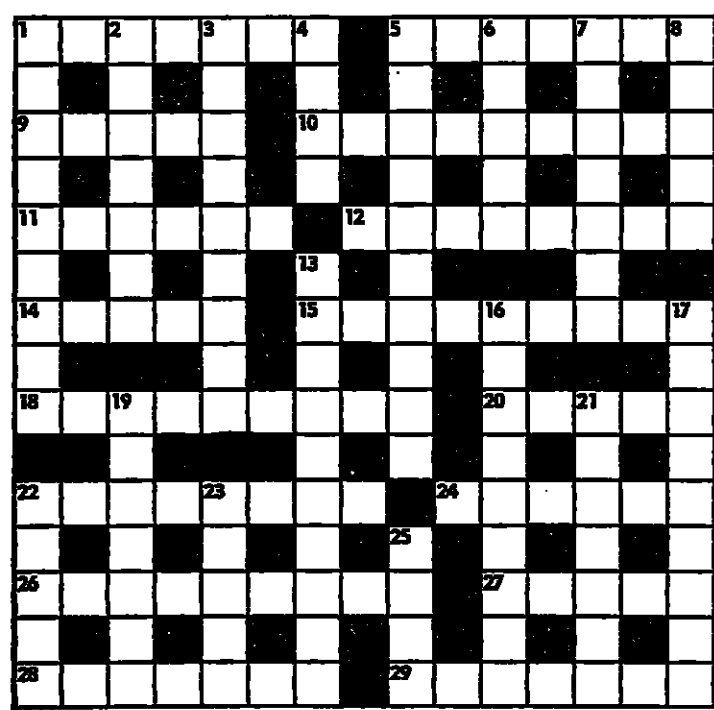
Continued from page 1

Kuwaiti people's daily needs and suffering." The writer said that food prices had tripled in two weeks. Thirty eggs sold for seven dinars, approximately £14, but were now retailing at between 35 and 70 dinars. A box of tomatoes would sell at up to 120 dinars, while other fruits and meat could not be obtained at any price.

He said that enemy soldiers were burying what looked like ammunition boxes in various areas of the city, such as Messia Bridge en route to Kuwait's airport to the south of the city. Ahmadi, an oil terminal area, looked like a ghost town, the writer said. Shells of burnt-out houses were everywhere.

A separate account, telephoned over to London yesterday, told of two allied cruise missile attacks in the past three days. One was on Yarmuk Sports Club, near Mishrif in the south, thought to be used as a detention and torture centre by the Iraqis. The other was on Shamir school off the first ring road to the west of the city, used by the Iraqis as a command centre.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,520



- ACROSS**
- 1 Sympathy with strike by the Left (7)
  - 5 The French junior is to do the washing (7)
  - 9 Capital that's tied up? (5)
  - 10 Beds are made with these at the bottom, naturally (9)
  - 11 A religious lady - one in company representing the Roman Church (6)
  - 12 Changing to a great degree in this way (8)
  - 14 Greek character taking a little sausage and some gammon (5)
  - 15 Hurry back outside, say, to get transport (6,3)
  - 18 Having sago under-cooked is risky (9)
  - 20 Rogue making a point about a politician (5)
  - 22 The height of the pilot (8)
- DOWN**
- 2 Hard as always in the London area (6)
  - 6 Polish cereal containing some fat - mark it in red (9)
  - 7 Plug in the day before, duck! (5)
  - 8 Required to carry money, so irritated (7)
  - 9 Particular about quiet in school (7)
  - 11 Steel in to cover for a band leader (5,4)
  - 12 A sorry performance (7)
  - 13 Stubborn stain to be concealed (9)
  - 14 Try running water (4)
  - 15 Record cut by awfully bitter contributor to opera (10)
  - 16 Total issue (5)
  - 17 Doctor has a second spasm - really severe (7)
  - 18 Cook demands the right kind of oven (5)
  - 19 Support an employee when old (6,4)
  - 20 Slates set out for use in flat (9)
  - 21 Take the place of military personnel now (9)
  - 22 Unskilled, but that's exceptional (7)
  - 23 To declare before time can appear mean (7)
  - 24 A bishop with an island off the Scottish coast (5)
  - 25 It's about to become material (5)
  - 26 This is a beast to carry (4)

THE PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,519 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Concise crossword, page 13

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

- ZIFFIUS**  
a. A sea monster  
b. A sacrificial chess opening  
c. A travelling trunk
- SCHEDAM**  
a. A tidal dam  
b. Holland's Gin  
c. Caraway-flavoured cheese
- REIM-KENNA**  
a. An enchanter  
b. A pottery drill  
c. Chain-mail underpants
- MAROR**  
a. Sweet chestnut porree  
b. A Jerusalem  
c. A dish of bitter herbs

Answers on page 16, column 1

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks  
C. London (within N & S Cinc.) 731  
N. London (M1-M25) 732  
M. London (M1-M25) 733  
M. London (M25-M4) 734  
M. London (M4-M25) 735  
M. London (M25-M4) 736  
M. London (M4-M25) 737

National traffic and roadworks  
National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Angles 741  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

1991 Crossword Championship: As more competitors have qualified for the Bristol and London A and B finals than can be accommodated, they will be required to attempt the Eliminator puzzle which will be published on Thursday, February 21.

## WEATHER

Eastern England and the Midlands will have a dry, frosty start with some hazy sunshine later, especially in the South-East. Scotland, Wales and parts of western England will be cloudy with outbreaks of sleet or snow. Northern Ireland will be dry with sunny intervals, with some cloud in eastern areas. Cold everywhere with temperatures just above freezing. Windy in the far North. Outlook: cold with some hazy sunshine but snow showers in the east later.

## ABROAD

MIDDAY: 1=Thunder; 2=Drizzle; 3= fog; 4=Sun; 5=Clear; 6=Snow; 7=Rain; 8=Cloud; 9=Light; 10=Heavy; 11=Storm; 12=Hail; 13=Ice; 14=Wind; 15=Thunder; 16=Drizzle; 17= fog; 18=Sun; 19=Clear; 20=Snow; 21=Rain; 22=Cloud; 23=Light; 24=Heavy; 25=Storm; 26=Hail; 27=Ice; 28=Wind; 29=Thunder; 30=Drizzle; 31= fog; 32=Sun; 33=Clear; 34=Snow; 35=Rain; 36=Cloud; 37=Light; 38=Heavy; 39=Storm; 40=Hail; 41=Ice; 42=Wind; 43=Thunder; 44=Drizzle; 45= fog; 46=Sun; 47=Clear; 48=Snow; 49=Rain; 50=Cloud; 51=Light; 52=Heavy; 53=Storm; 54=Hail; 55=Ice; 56=Wind; 57=Thunder; 58=Drizzle; 59= fog; 60=Sun; 61=Clear; 62=Snow; 63=Rain; 64=Cloud; 65=Light; 66=Heavy; 67=Storm; 68=Hail; 69=Ice; 70=Wind; 71=Thunder; 72=Drizzle; 73= fog; 74=Sun; 75=Clear; 76=Snow; 77=Rain; 78=Cloud; 79=Light; 80=Heavy; 81=Storm; 82=Hail; 83=Ice; 84=Wind; 85=Thunder; 86=Drizzle; 87= fog; 88=Sun; 89=Clear; 90=Snow; 91=Rain; 92=Cloud; 93=Light; 94=Heavy; 95=Storm; 96=Hail; 97=Ice; 98=Wind; 99=Thunder; 100=Drizzle; 101= fog; 102=Sun; 103=Clear; 104=Snow; 105=Rain; 106=Cloud; 107=Light; 108=Heavy; 109=Storm; 110=Hail; 111=Ice; 112=Wind; 113=Thunder; 114=Drizzle; 115= fog; 116=Sun; 117=Clear; 118=Snow; 119=Rain; 120=Cloud; 121=Light; 122=Heavy; 123=Storm; 124=Hail; 125=Ice; 126=Wind; 127=Thunder; 128=Drizzle; 129= fog; 130=Sun; 131=Clear; 132=Snow; 133=Rain; 134=Cloud; 135=Light; 136=Heavy; 137=Storm; 138=Hail; 139=Ice; 140=Wind; 141=Thunder; 142=Drizzle; 143= fog; 144=Sun; 145=Clear; 146=Snow; 147=Rain; 148=Cloud; 149=Light; 150=Heavy; 151=Storm; 152=Hail; 153=Ice; 154=Wind; 155=Thunder; 156=Drizzle; 157= fog; 158=Sun; 159=Clear; 160=Snow; 161=Rain; 162=Cloud; 163=Light; 164=Heavy; 165=Storm; 166=Hail; 167=Ice; 168=Wind; 169=Thunder; 170=Drizzle; 171= fog; 172=Sun; 173=Clear; 174=Snow; 175=Rain; 176=Cloud; 177=Light; 178=Heavy; 179=Storm; 180=Hail; 181=Ice; 182=Wind; 183=Thunder; 184=Drizzle; 185= fog; 186=Sun; 187=Clear; 188=Snow; 189=Rain; 190=Cloud; 191=Light; 192=Heavy; 193=Storm; 194=Hail; 195=Ice; 196=Wind; 197=Thunder; 198=Drizzle; 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294=Wind; 295=Thunder; 296=Drizzle; 297= fog; 298=Sun; 299=Clear; 300=Snow; 301=Rain; 302=Cloud; 303=Light; 304=Heavy; 305=Storm; 306=Hail; 307=Ice; 308=Wind; 309=Thunder; 310=Drizzle; 311= fog; 312=Sun; 313=Clear; 314=Snow; 315=Rain; 316=Cloud; 317=Light; 318=Heavy; 319=Storm; 320=Hail; 321=Ice; 322=Wind; 323=Thunder; 324=Drizzle; 325= fog; 326=Sun; 327=Clear; 328=Snow; 329=Rain; 330=Cloud; 331=Light; 332=Heavy; 333=Storm; 334=Hail; 335=Ice; 336=Wind; 337=Thunder; 338=Drizzle; 339= fog; 340=Sun; 341=Clear; 342=Snow; 343=Rain; 344=Cloud; 345=Light; 346=Heavy; 347=Storm; 348=Hail; 349=Ice; 350=Wind; 351=Thunder; 352=Drizzle; 353= fog; 354=Sun; 355=Clear; 356=Snow; 357=Rain; 358=Cloud; 359=Light; 360=Heavy; 361=Storm; 362=Hail; 363=Ice; 364=Wind; 365=Thunder; 366=Drizzle; 367= fog; 368=Sun; 369=Clear; 370=Snow; 371=Rain; 372=Cloud; 373=Light; 374=Heavy; 375=Storm; 376=Hail; 377=Ice; 378=Wind; 379=Thunder; 380=Drizzle; 381= fog; 382=Sun; 383=Clear; 384=Snow; 385=Rain; 386=Cloud; 387=Light; 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# BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 4 1991

Business Editor  
John Bell

## President budgets for \$300bn deficit

**PRESIDENT** George Bush will today send Congress a \$1,400 billion budget proposal for fiscal 1992, with a federal deficit set close to \$300 billion, reflecting the cost of the Gulf war and the recession, administration and Congress sources said.

But the proposal is not expected to contain any initiatives to pull the economy out of recession. Instead, it will focus on long-term economic growth.

The budget is based on the assumption that the recession will end by mid-year. A return to slight growth is forecast, producing a real 0.9 per cent growth in gross national product for the whole of 1991.

Although the White House predicts a \$318 billion budget deficit, congressional analysts expect it to be about \$298 billion. This compares with last year's deficit of \$220 billion.

The *New York Times* said Mr Bush will ask Congress to cut another \$23 billion from the Medicare scheme for the elderly and disabled over the next five years, in addition to large cuts already planned.

## Brokers face fraud charge

Two stockbrokers appeared before Guildhall magistrates in London on Saturday charged with fraud totalling about £2.5 million.

Patrick Mahon, aged 49, chairman of TC Coombs and Company, the stockbroking firm, and Andrew Kent, aged 42, an employee of the firm, were charged with conspiracy to defraud The Securities Association of £2.5 million.

Mr Mahon, of Chigwell, Essex, and Mr Kent, of Chelsea, were granted conditional bail with sureties of £500,000 each. They were ordered to surrender their passports and not to leave the UK. They will appear before magistrates again on May 8. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

## UK oil record forecast

Britain's oil and gas output looks set to reach a new peak in the mid-Nineties, with welcome implications for the economy as a whole, John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said at the weekend.

He said a record 224 exploration and appraisal wells were sunk in the British sector of the North Sea last year, while the Offshore Operators' Association suggested up to 300 new fields could be developed over 25 years. This means Britain could remain a leading petroleum producer until the middle of the next century.

Mr Wakeham's view contrasts with the picture provided by official output data, which show that North Sea production has not regained ground lost in the late Eighties. He said there had been an unexpectedly high number of new discoveries.

### CHANGE ON WEEK

**THE POUND**  
US dollar 1.9765 (-0.0175)  
W German mark 2.9005 (-0.0175)  
Exchange index: 94.4 (same)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1694.0 (+49.0)  
FT-SE 100 2165.7 (+62.7)  
New York Dow Jones 2730.69 (+71.28)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23156.70 (-416.55)

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.50	2.44
Austria Sch	21.95	20.15
Belgium Fr	62.75	58.15
Canada \$	2.365	2.285
Denmark Kr	11.75	11.05
Finland Mk	11.44	10.87
France Fr	10.32	9.87
Germany Dm	3.045	2.845
Spain Ps	161	151
Sweden Kr	11.39	10.71
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.42
Turkey Lir	6200	6050
USA \$	2.05	1.98
Yugoslavia Dnr	32.00	28.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 128.8 (December)

## Big three German car makers back Continental's stand

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY'S three largest car makers are believed to have built up stakes in Continental, the German tyre company, in support of the management which is fighting a merger proposal from Pirelli, its Italian rival.

Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen and BMW are understood to own stakes of between 1 and 5 per cent, and together represent just under 10 per cent of Continental's share capital. The companies would not comment.

Last September Pirelli proposed a

merger between the two companies under which Continental would buy Pirelli Tyre Holdings, the Amsterdam-listed tyre firm, for between DM1.85 billion and DM2.25 billion, while Pirelli, the parent company, would end up with a 51 per cent majority in the merged Continental/Pirelli Tyre company. The proposal has been rejected by Continental's management and supervisory boards.

Now both companies are seeking out shareholders who will back their arguments. Investor support is so far divided on national lines. German shareholders, including Deutsche Bank and Allianz, the insurance company, are understood to

support Continental, while Mediobanca, the Milan merchant bank, Fiat, and other Italian investors speaking for more than 23 per cent, support Pirelli. Alberto Vicari, a private investor with 5 per cent of Continental, also supports Pirelli. An extraordinary shareholders' meeting, which is to decide on the future course of the company, has been called for March 13 at his insistence.

Pirelli will this week write to Continental shareholders putting its case for a merger. The Italian company can count on support in respect of 23 per cent of Continental's capital. Continental's known support is about 20 per cent, including the car

companies. The decisive factor will therefore be the attitude of the remaining investors, including numerous German and Swiss institutions and, to a smaller degree, British investors. German companies are generally unaware of their shareholders, since the large majority of shares are bearer certificates. It is up to shareholders to make themselves known to the company if they so wish.

At the agm, shareholders will decide whether to drop the present 5 per cent voting restriction, which protects Continental and many other German companies from hostile takeover bids. If shareholders agree to abolition of the restriction, the way

will be paved towards a genuinely hostile bid by Pirelli. If they do not, Continental will remain independent.

Two hundred workers' representatives drawn from Continental's factories throughout the country staged a demonstration in Hanover on Friday to pledge their support for the Continental management.

Horst Urban, the company's chief executive, had previously promised not to make any redundancies if the company remained independent. This is despite the serious state of the world tyre industry, which is suffering from severe recession worldwide.

## Germany and US play down rate concerns

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

THERE is very little danger of the recession in America and Britain spreading to the rest of the world economy, and the Gulf war will have a negligible economic impact in the long term.

These were the main conclusions of a generally optimistic meeting of economic and political leaders held at Davos over the weekend.

The private meeting, which was attended by Karl Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, and Wayne A. Galt, of the Federal Reserve Board, also agreed that there was no conflict between the divergent interest rate policies announced last week in Germany and America. Accord-

ing to Raymond Barre, the former French prime minister who was rapporteur of the meeting, there was no discussion of the effects these monetary policies would have on Britain and other members of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

M Barre said that European leaders generally understood that the Bundesbank's decision to raise interest rates had reflected considerations important not only for Germany but also for the whole of Europe, and added that there was no prospect of it shaking the structure of the ERM.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Germany's foreign minister, said the interest rate move was designed to signal that Germany had reached a "thresh-

old" in its capacity to borrow, a signal which had to be appreciated not only by Germany's politicians but also by the European allies who were calling on it to make greater commitments abroad. He said the economic significance of the action would be explained more fully by Herr Pöhl in his speech at Davos today.

Officials from Germany and other European countries insisted however that the Bundesbank action would not cause undue strain on the ERM. One said that the ERM was "not a fixed exchange-rate system or a monetary union". Any country that did not wish to follow German interest rates upwards could take advantage of the room for manoeuvre available in its present ERM band or negotiate a lower band.

Regarding the apparent breakdown of coordination between German and American monetary decisions, Jacob Frankel, economic director of the International Monetary Fund, said: "Policy coordination does not mean the same policy actions by different actors; policies can be coordinated either in the same direction or in opposite directions, depending on what the situation requires."

M Barre said that according to the analysis presented by Mr Angell, a relaxation of American monetary policy was necessary because the country was clearly in recession. This, however, was expected to be short and shallow. The threat of a "credit crunch" had been greatly exaggerated, he added, because the Fed was determined to provide enough liquidity to revive economic growth. The recession in Britain had different causes from the one in America, M Barre said, and the meeting apparently expressed no views about Britain's immediate prospects.

The outlook for continental Europe and Japan appeared to be "very encouraging" and this was the reason why a worldwide recession was unlikely, said M Barre.

The Gulf war was "very important and worrying" from a political standpoint, he added, but from an economic point of view it was not a major factor. A strong rise in the price of oil could have had serious repercussions on the world economy. But he said: "Nobody now thinks that oil prices could reach intolerable levels unless there were destruction of oil production capacity."

Economic view, page 21



Open for business: Allan Griffiths overseeing the resumption of trading at Lewis's Manchester store on Saturday

## Lewis's reopens to a surge in trade

By PHILIP PANGALOS

LEWIS'S, the Manchester-based department store group that went into receivership last week with debts likely to exceed £50 million, has resumed trading with a surge of activity.

On Saturday, the first day's trading since last Thursday's receivership and subsequent closure of the group on Friday, the group managed to achieve record sales for February, traditionally a quiet month for retailing groups, and produced one of the best day's returns outside the busy Christmas period.

There was a steady stream of shoppers at the Lewis's store in Liverpool, many taking advantage of the hundreds of special offers available before National Westminster Bank's decision to withdraw financial facilities for the chain.

One assistant, who refused to be named, said: "We have agreed to a 7.5 per cent pay cut because we are anxious to do anything to save Lewis's. Our livelihoods depend on the company staying afloat. I just hope something can be done to save our jobs and keep the store open."

Allan Griffiths, one of the joint receivers from Grant Thornton's Manchester office, described Saturday's trading as "tremendous". He said: "We had record sales for February."

Estimated sales at the 11 department stores are believed to have topped £1 million, compared with about £800,000 the previous week. Mr Griffiths said that the group benefited from "tremendous support from staff and customers". He said that some people were reluctant to buy big ticket items, such as



future. He said that the receivers, who intended to sell the chain as a going concern, had been approached by a number of interested parties.

There have already been approaches from at least 20 enquirers, although some were only interested in parts of the business.

There has been speculation that the John Lewis Partnership, which has no connection with the Lewis's, might buy the group's sites in Glasgow and Thurrock, Essex, areas where it is not represented.

Lewis's main creditor is the NatWest, which is understood to be owed substantially more than £13.5 million and which withdrew its support after the company exceeded its cash limit.

## TWA to negotiate on rescheduling interest payments

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

TRANS World Airlines, the troubled American carrier, will this week begin talks to reschedule interest payments on its corporate bonds after failing to meet a \$75.5 million payment on Friday.

The airline said it went into default to conserve cash in the face of a severe drop in bookings and high fuel costs. Moody's Investors Service, the credit rating agency, immediately downgraded the bonds to junk levels.

Carl Icahn, TWA owner, chairman and chief executive, said the airline had \$200 million in cash at the end of last month. That sum includes \$110 million from the sale of its Chicago-London route to American Airlines, which may not go through if the British aviation authorities fail to give their approval.

The sale forms part of a wider agenda involving other route sales into London by TWA to American and the sale of five key services into Heathrow by Pan Am to United Airlines. Without a quick decision, TWA claims it may have to file for bankruptcy protection against creditors, and Pan Am, which has already filed, faces liquidation.

On approval, American would pay TWA \$455 million for its Heathrow access, and

United Airlines would pay Pan Am \$290 million for Heathrow assets and five routes into London. But Britain is unwilling to grant a change of ownership, and with it access by America's two largest and financially strongest carriers into Heathrow, without big concessions from America for much greater access to American skies for British Airways.

Talks between Britain and America broke up last week when American negotiators said they had no mandate to discuss relaxation of American rules. American observers said the matter looks poised to escalate into an international diplomatic dispute.



Icahn: missed payment

## Building a picture of gloom

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

RECESSION in the already hard-hit construction industry is still deepening, with little hope of improvement.

The gloomy picture painted by the latest state-of-trade survey published today by the Building Employers' Confederation follows equally bleak reports on manufacturing and service industries over the last few weeks, which all suggested worsening output and accelerated job losses.

Taken together, and coupled with growing job cuts from leading companies, they provide an almost unmitigated pessimistic account of the state of British business.

The quarterly survey of 600 sample companies in the confederation, whose members carry out more than three-quarters of all private building work, indicates a sharp fall in output. This is likely to worsen across the construction industry, one of the first sectors to feel the impact of the economic downturn.

Roughly 66 per cent of all construction companies expect even less work over the next 12 months than in the past year,

the survey shows. When the 12 per cent who do expect more work are set against this, the resulting balance of minus 54 per cent is down from that in the third quarter of 1990, when there was a negative balance of 48 per cent. Construction output fell sharply over the quarter, with the proportion of companies reporting declining output increasing markedly from 38 per cent in the third quarter of last year to 53 per cent in the final three months.

Regional results show that the recession has filtered down to areas that had previously been holding up, such as Scotland, the North, Yorkshire and Wales, while continuing to fall in London and the South. Only a fifth of building companies are working at or close to full capacity.

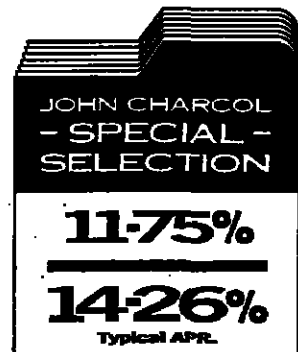
The survey shows what it calls "clear signs of a return of confidence and recovery" in the private house-building sector after last October's cut in interest rates. But David Woods, confederation chairman, said yesterday these signs had evaporated with war in the Gulf.

He said: "The results of this enquiry show even more clearly that the construction industry is in for a rough ride in 1991. I see no reason to change our forecast on job losses of well over 100,000 during the course of the current recession." Building firms would go to the wall in increasing numbers, not just new, smaller firms, but also larger, established companies.

Up to 59 per cent of building companies expect employment to fall in the next quarter, though some results in the survey suggest the rate of decline in tender prices is now slowing significantly. While the survey also shows some improvement in the decreasing number of new enquiries for work, this does not necessarily indicate an upturn since it may merely mark companies widening their tender net.

Confederation leaders said the industry needed a cut in interest rates as soon as possible, although they gave warning that even a 1 or 2 percentage point cut would be most unlikely to prevent a fall in overall output this year.

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# Britain caught in a monetary tug of war

## ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

John Major likes to say that the main purpose of his economic policy is to reduce Britain's inflation. This is not quite true. Since Mr Major entered the European exchange-rate mechanism, the real object of Britain's monetary policy has been to control inflation in Germany. The importance of this distinction became apparent last Thursday, when the Bundesbank raised its interest rates, ignoring the cries of anguish from other members of the ERM.

The painful consequences for Britain became even clearer on Friday, when the American Federal Reserve Board revealed the value of monetary independence and floating exchange rates by cutting American interest rates the day after the Bundesbank's action.

Britain, in other words, has been caught in a monetary tug of war between Germany and America. This is a contest in which British industry has been cast in the unenviable role of the piece of rope. On one side, its markets are tugged away by American competitors. On the other, corporate balance sheets

are strained beyond breaking point by high interest rates designed by the Bundesbank to cope with the costs of German reunification.

The reason why British industry is undergoing this torture is obvious. Last week's events confirmed that Britain's plunge into the ERM last October was made at the worst possible time. Not only was Germany's economic cycle at its point of maximum divergence from the cycles in Britain and America, worse still, the Bundesbank was engaged in a trial of strength with the German government over the terms of reunification.

All this is water under the bridge, however. What is to be done now? Leaving the ERM or engineering a devaluation within it is politically out of the question since Mr Major has staked his entire prestige and credibility on this rash enterprise. The government must, therefore, learn to

work within the system and this will require a new approach on at least two points.

First, the market must be made to understand that there is no need for the pound to rise above its central rate of DM2.95 before its interest rates can be cut in Britain. Officials made this clear before Christmas but the Chancellor must now go on the record. He must explain to the markets that the only number that really matters for monetary policy is the ERM floor of DM2.78.

This is certainly the view of German officials who have said repeatedly that other European countries have three options whenever the Bundesbank decides to raise its rates: they can follow German rates upwards;

they can devalue; or they can use the flexibility of their existing ERM bands to the full.

For Britain the last course would mean allowing the pound to move towards DM2.78 while reiterating the commitment to defend this floor at all costs. Britain should also make clear that the so-called floor against the peseta, currently at about DM2.87, is irrelevant for policy. The peseta floor will move up and down with sterling like the floor of an elevator if the Bank of England simply sells the Spanish currency in the market every time it moves up too far against the pound.

If the focus of market attention were shifted to DM2.78, Britain would start to realise some of the

benefits of ERM membership as originally advertised. Assume that devaluation is out of the question before the next election and that this election will not take place for at least a year. The ERM guarantee at DM2.78, combined with the present interest differential between London and Frankfurt, then offers a sure profit to anyone who buys sterling at DM2.88 or below.

In fact, because of the way that money market rates are still discounting a cut in Britain's base rates, these could be cut immediately to 12 per cent and still provide investors with enough incentive to hold sterling at levels between DM2.78 and DM2.85. For Mr Major, keeping the pound stable at this level ought to be achievement enough.

A U-turn in Britain's attitude to fiscal demand management is the second adjustment required by ERM membership. If interest rates cannot be cut below 12 per cent in the foreseeable future, the

economy will need some other stimulus to pull it out of recession before the end of the year. A looser fiscal policy is the only available tool. As last week's events abroad underlined, governments around the world are once again practising demand management with gusto.

The main difference between today's form of economic management in America and Germany and the Keynesian fine-tuning of the Sixties is that interest rates, rather than taxes, are being used as the main tool. For Britain, deprived of its monetary independence, this option is no longer available. But with the exchange rate against the mark now more or less fixed, a big fiscal boost in the next Budget could be quite effective.

The chances are, however, that neither 12 per cent base rates nor a significant fiscal stimulus will be delivered in the Budget. The Chancellor will remain paralysed by outmoded dogmas and fear of the markets. By this time next year we should know which approach works better — American-style activism or British *laissez-faire*.

## Lamont's new man strikes different note over policy



Moderate: Bill Robinson, new adviser to Chancellor

FOR most mortals, one Budget day a year would be more than enough. For Bill Robinson, who tomorrow takes up the exacting post of special adviser to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, March 19 will be the second budget this year.

As the director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the independent think-tank, he last week presented the "green budget", in which IFS economists, in collaboration with Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, disclosed the detailed results of their annual exercise in budgetary planning.

The IFS's alternative budget, edited by Mr Robinson, is carefully timed to appear as the Treasury starts to put the Budget together. While the IFS view was previously available to the Treasury's budget planners, the appointment of Mr Robinson will doubtless be seen as evidence that John Major's government is prepared not simply to hear what others say, but is ready to allow a broader range of opinion to influence directly the formulation of policy.

Mr Major's choice of Mr Lamont as Chancellor came as no surprise to the City. At the time, however, it was widely taken to signify that the course of Treasury policy would be steady ahead. Fresh from the Chancellorship, Mr Major could hardly be expected, as prime minister, to embark immediately on setting new monetary and fiscal paths. Elevating his former chief secretary to the control of the government purse strings was a guarantee of continuity.

The enthusiasm with which Central Office sought to present Mr Major as the champion of caring Conservatism was, to a large extent, seen as the work of the professional image-makers, keen to shed the politically damaging hardness associated with his forerunner at Number 10.

Whether the softer Tory face would change much at the

Treasury was open to doubt. Mr Robinson, who will have Mr Lamont's ear on matters of tax and macroeconomics, describes himself as a Conservative moderate.

But he is no economic wet and fully espouses the pro-market, anti-inflation creed. Now aged 49, he has worked in the halls of government before, with stints at the Cabinet Office, the Treasury and the European Commission, before moving on to head economic forecasting at the London Business School. His four-and-a-half years at

the IFS have allied him with economists of the social market school, who believe that that fiscal policy can and should be used to redistribute wealth. This year's green budget says Mr Lamont may seek to underline the Cabinet's softer approach by easing the tax burden on the less well off.

The green budget suggests that this could be done by increasing personal tax allowances by more than inflation, through increasing national insurance contributions by extending them to perks, and by reducing the tax break on

company cars. The IFS expects Mr Lamont to aim for a revenue neutral budget, with no net cuts in tax, implying a "significant planned increase" in borrowing in the coming financial year. A return to public sector deficit is expected to mean a borrowing requirement of £4 billion in 1991-2.

Those who know Mr Robinson say that he will bring to the Treasury the skills of a communicator rather than an originator of ideas. His clear thinking and valuable ability to draw maximum benefit from computer systems have always made him good at identifying what courses of action are worthwhile.

During the miners' strike in 1984-5, it was Mr Robinson who stood back from the political turmoil and took a detached look at the state of Britain's mines. His pit-by-pit study provided a timely reminder of what were the underlying problems in the industry.

To the Treasury, Mr Robinson, who relinquishes his connections with the IFS and his role as a columnist on *The Independent*, will bring a wide range of non-economic interests and talents. His passion for sports and the outdoors should stand him well in the prime minister's circle.

His musical activities have already brought him close to Sir Terence Burns, the government's chief economic adviser. Not only have the two been colleagues at LES, but they also play in the same woodwind quintet in Ealing, west London. Mr Robinson plays bass recorder to Sir Terence's descent, it appears. This augurs well for harmony among the government's thinkers. And as an accomplished bassoonist, Mr Robinson has a broader range of instruments to offer. Time will tell if government policy will reflect such variety.

COLIN NARBROUGH  
Economics Correspondent

## Door to SA investment stands ajar

TEMPUS

without sanctions brakes on it, chugs forward with reasonable speed, the potential for building construction and consumer-related fields is obvious.

South African gold shares will remain puppets of the world gold price, and seem likely to give investors alternate headaches and joy for a while, but selected SA industrial shares could prove rewarding over time, though the rate and the health of economic progress under a

If the argument is accepted that there is an investment case for SA, then a portfolio that includes Anglo American (£13.14, on a p/e of 5.5), Barlows Rand (560p, on a p/e of 6.1), SA Breweries (635p, on a p/e of 12.4), Rembrandt (230p, on a p/e of 7.2) and De Beers (990p, on a p/e of 6.3) would give quality and a spread across the entire SA economy. Each is easily dealt in, and known, in London. The average dividend yield

### 'It only needs one fund manager to move before the crowd follows'

post-apartheid regime needs to be proved.

Next week, the 14th annual investment conference hosted by Frankel Max Pollak Vindere, the South African broker, starts in Johannesburg and will be attended by at least 50 London and continental fund managers and brokers.

They will undoubtedly alert their clients to SA investment situations, which will only make worse an already tight stock shortage on the Johannesburg stock market. The SA budget follows on March 20.

on industrial shares listed on the Johannesburg stock exchange at 3.8 per cent (which would be 23 per cent more attractive through use of the financial rand) and the average price/earnings ratio of 9.2 compares with a London stock market industrial average dividend yield of 5.22 per cent and an average p/e of 10.4.

Johannesburg ratios are hardly attractive enough to encourage British investors to gallop into the SA market, but SA as an investment region is underweight in most fund

managers' portfolios, and it only needs one fund manager to move before the crowd follows.

The persuasive argument that there are other "new" investment areas in the world, such as eastern Europe, Botswana, Namibia, means that SA will have to fight for its corner if fresh investment funds are to flow its way. Latest statistics from the Johannesburg stock exchange (JSE) detailing transactions in equities by non-residents show net equity sales of R77.9 million, R16.2 million and of R29.8 million in the first three weeks of January.

Gavin Reilly, the former chairman of Anglo American, South Africa's largest group and one with extensive financial muscle, says, in thinking back over the SA economy during the apartheid years, that "one might almost say that we have lived through the modern economic equivalent of the seven plagues of Egypt".

Chris Stals, governor of the Reserve Bank of South Africa, says though business has set its sights on the next expansionary phase in the economy, that may not start before late 1991 or only in 1992.

But then it is always darkest before the dawn, and astute investors tend to move ahead of the crowd.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Roger Levitt answers back

LESS than amused by the suggestion in the City Diary last week that he had left RaceAid, the racing charity, in the lurch, former high-flying financier Roger Levitt has broken cover to talk about his work for charity. Levitt claims that he helped set the charity up but did not pledge to hand over a cheque for £150,000 as some have claimed. "I do want to kill the rumour that we made the pledge and failed to pay," says Levitt, who insists that he has personally donated more than £1.5 million to a range of charities in recent years. He is anxious to point out that he sat on the fund-raising committee of the Royal Marsden Hospital. As for RaceAid — which aims to raise £1 million towards the hospital's cancer appeal this year — he explains that it was in fact dreamed up by Levitt's sports and entertainments division. "The idea originated from our group," says Levitt, claiming that he spent the best part of £150,000 on staff and running costs during his involvement with RaceAid.

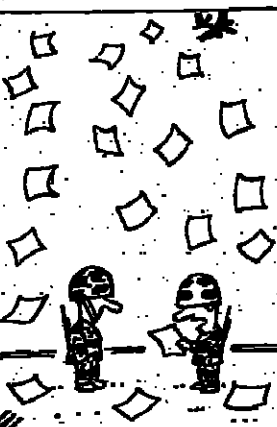
### Yamaichi axe

YAMAICHI International, the British subsidiary of one of the four biggest securities houses in Japan, has laid off more than 7 per cent of its London workforce. Of the 350 employees, 25 — mostly back office but including one trader and two or three analysts —

were told on Friday that their services were no longer required. "The natural wastage process that we hoped would work over the last six to 12 months has not had sufficient effect," says a spokesman for the firm. "It meant that we had to do something to get rid of duplication, after the merger of a couple of back office departments." He added that the firm was not withdrawing from any sectors and was still recruiting in its UK and European equity sales departments.

### Change of name

THE best laid plans of mice and men... Ian Restall, publisher of *USM Magazine*, which was to have changed its name to *PLC Magazine* to reflect the City's changing attitude toward smaller companies, has had to think again.



"It says 'Register now for PowerGen'."

For after these plans were detailed in this column, Restall received a frantic telephone call from *Practical Law for Companies*, also known as *PLC Magazine*, laying prior claim to that title. "We just managed to stop the printers in time," says a much relieved Restall. "We are now going to call it *PLC Review* and the printers are once again going full steam ahead, so that it will be ready for our mid-February launch date."

One of London's best-loved vagrants, the bag lady who strolls up and down *The Strand*, is not without contacts in the City, it seems. She has found a new way of beating the winter chill — by taking shelter under a Polly Peck International corporate umbrella.

### Sticking power

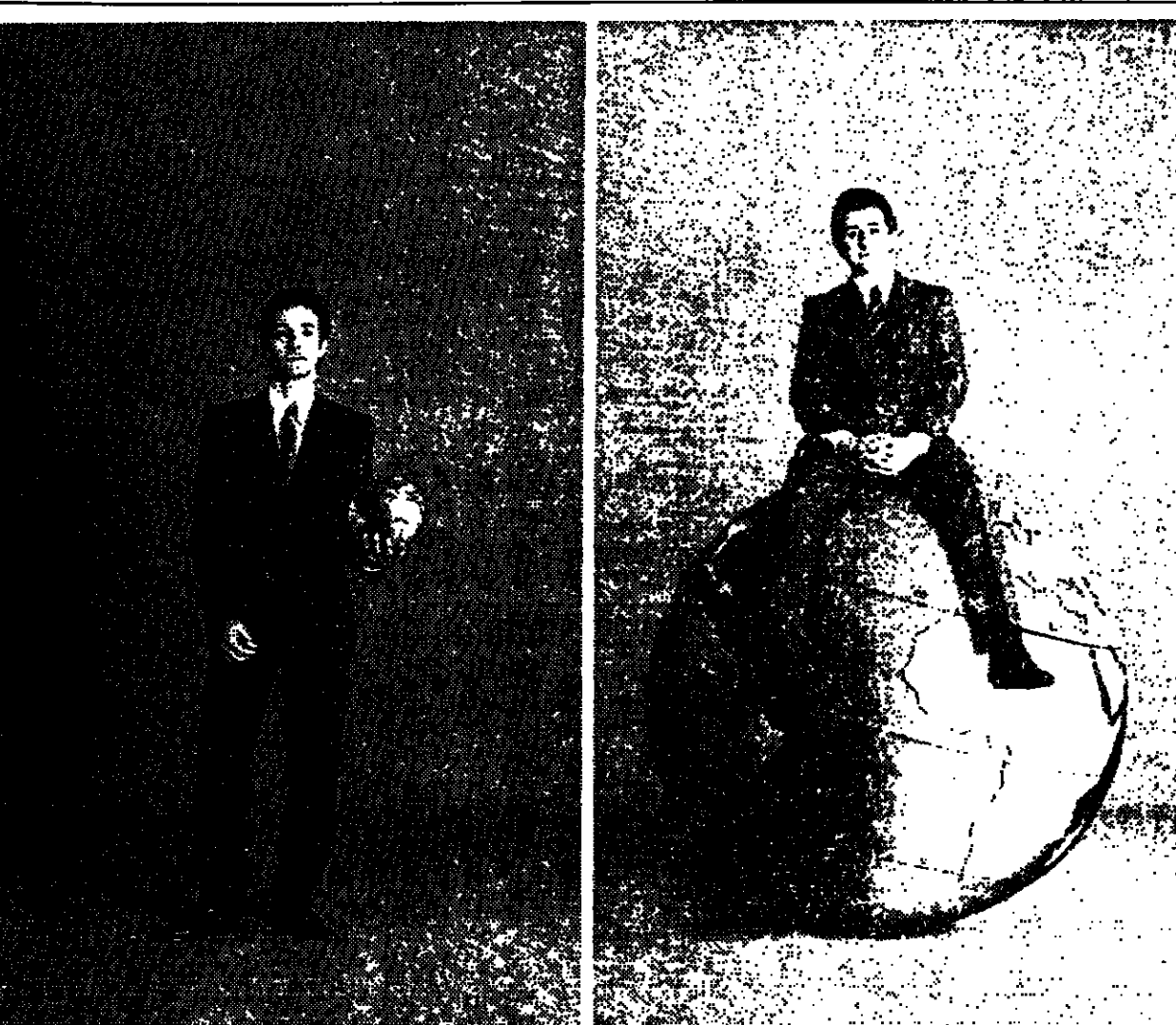
CAST your mind back to last year and one of the images that spring to mind should be photographs of Atlantic Computer employees quaffing champagne from their company Porches after they had been laid off. Nearly nine months after Atlantic's collapse, which triggered the demise of its parent company, British & Commonwealth, the receivers are still hard at work at both companies. B&C staff who have been kept on by its receivers, Ernst & Young, were, according to a report in *Computing* magazine, delighted to discover an extra month's wages in their year-end pay packets. "It was really just to say thank you for

sticking with the company," explains an Ernst & Young spokesman. But the remaining 25 staff at Atlantic have not, *Computing* reports, received a penny.

### Tall tale

LES Polden, one of Merrill Lynch's two remaining UK equity specialists, who was made redundant last week, has landed another job with record speed. Much to the delight of his City chums, Polden, aged 45, known affectionately as the upper half of Bobby Moore because of their physical similarity, despite Polden's smallness of stature, has been signed up by Nikko Securities, the Japanese firm, as a senior manager in its UK and European stock trading and sales department. "They have been very strong in Japanese equities and I will be building up a UK equities agency business to start with," says a delighted Polden. "There will also be forays into the European side of the business, which will be something new for Nikko. They have already taken on a couple of UK and European salesmen." Due to start on February 18, after a well-deserved rest at his Bramwood, Essex, home — where an answering machine welcomes you to the "Polden mad house" — he has, those aforementioned City chums tell me, a new nickname, Luffy. "He's only about 5ft 4in but he'll be one of the tallest people there," says such friend.

CAROL LEONARD



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REPORTING THIS WEEK

# Cellnet's growth the key to raised profits at Securicor

A HEALTHY advance in full-year profits is expected tomorrow from Securicor, the security-to-communications group where Roger Wiggs is chief executive, and its quoted subsidiary, the 51 per cent owned Securicor Services.

Profits will register a strong increase on the back of progress at Cellnet, the cellular mobile telephone network, which accounts for more than half the group's profits.

December's figures, the latest available, showed that Cellnet added 9,500 subscribers. News is awaited on whether subscription growth has been maintained.

The parcels and security businesses are believed to be suffering from recession.

Chris McFadden at Smith New Court expects Securicor to turn in final pre-tax profits of £62 million, against £38.2 million last time, giving earnings of 25.2p (16.3p). Full-year profits from Securicor Services are expected to rise to £47.9 million (£28.2 million), giving earnings of 24.2p (15.7p).

## TODAY

John Menzies, the newspaper wholesaler and retailing chain, is expected to report interim pre-tax profits of £5.9 million, against £3.1 million, according to Keith Wills at Goldman Sachs. However, the latter figure is flattered by the exclusion of last time's £3.2 million extraordinary provision for Early Learning Centres in America. Market forecasts range from £5.3 million to £6.2 million.

The statement on the group's second-half trading performance, including the important Christmas period, will be of greater interest to the market.

The interest charge will take its toll on profits, and charges will reflect the refinancing of



Making progress: Roger Wiggs, Securicor chief executive

American debt into sterling. The charge is expected to be about £2.1 million (£1.6 million) in the first half, rising to £4 million (£2.3 million) for the year.

The group's British retailing businesses are expected to show a mixed performance. The main chain will be down, and, after the recent figures from WH Smith, it appears that the wholesaling recovery has hit a plateau.

In contrast to the American Early Learning Centres, which the group hopes to sell off, the British centres are expected to be the one "bright spot".

Interim: Black (Peter), Menzies (John).  
Final: Conroy Petroleum & Natural Resources; Fleming Cleverhouse; Impulse Plastics; Hodge.  
Economic statistics: Credit business (December), retail sales (December - final), UK official reserves (January), advanced energy statistics (December).

## TOMORROW

Final pre-tax profits at Securicor Group, the security to industrial cleaning and services group, are expected to fall

travel and tourism (November), housing starts and completions (December).

## THURSDAY

A downturn in demand at Unitech, the electronic components group, is expected to result in interim pre-tax profits of £10 million, against £12.3 million last time, according to Patrick Wellington at County NatWest WoodMac. Market forecasts range from £10 million to £13 million.

Union Discount, the discount house and financial services group, is expected to report net profits of £12 million for the full year, against £10.5 million last time, according to Philip Gibbs at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

The company is believed to have benefited from the cut in the base rate announced when Britain joined the ERM.

Interim: Primadona, Trans-Natal Coal Corp, Unitech.  
Final: Children's Medical Charity; Inv Tst, Ericsson (LMA); Porval; Secon Hodge, Union Discount (London).

## FRIDAY

Interim: Eblot, First Spanish Inv. Fund; HummerPrint, Sandell Group; Thromorton Tst.

PHILIP PANGALOS

## European Law Report

## Luxembourg

# Ban on R symbol can hinder trade

Pall Corporation v P J Dahlhausen & Company Case C-238/89 Before G. F. Mancini, acting as President and Judges T. F. O'Higgins, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, M. Diez de Velasco, Sir Gordon Slynn, C. N. Kakouris, F. A. Schockweiler, F. Grévisse, M. Zuleeg and P. J. G. Kapteyn Advocate General G. Tesoro (Opinion October 9, 1990) [Judgment December 13]

A national rule which had the effect of prohibiting the use of the letter R in a circle in relation to a trademark which had been registered in another member state was capable of hindering intra-Community trade and could not be justified as being necessary in order to satisfy any mandatory requirements.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it by the Landgericht [Regional Court], Munich, for a preliminary ruling pursuant to article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

The defendant distributed blood filters in the Federal Republic of Germany which it had imported from Italy. The Italian manufacturer applied to the filters themselves and to their packaging the trademark "Microport" followed by the letter R in a circle.

Pall brought proceedings against Dahlhausen in order to prevent it using the R symbol after the "Microport" trademark in the Federal Republic of Germany on the ground that trademark had not been registered in Germany. In Pall's opinion the use of the R symbol in those circumstances constituted misleading publicity

prohibited by article 3 of the German law on unfair competition (Gesetz gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb) which prohibited "misleading indications as to... the origin... of goods (offered for sale)... or of their source".

The Landgericht took the view that Pall's argument was correct under German law. However it stayed the proceedings and submitted two questions to the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of that provision with article 30 of the EEC Treaty.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice ruled as follows: The use of the R symbol next to a trademark in order to indicate that it was a registered trademark and that, consequently, it enjoyed legal protection, was a practice which originated in the United States. That practice was widely followed in several Community member states.

It appeared from the file that German trademark legislation did not contain rules relating to the use of the R symbol. In those circumstances the question submitted, which related to the compatibility of a national provision on unfair competition with Community rules on the free movement of goods was to be examined in the light of article 30 alone.

A prohibition such as the one in question in the present case was of such a nature as to hinder intra-Community trade because it might require the holder of a trademark registered in one member state to organize the presentation of its products in a different manner according to

the intended place of distribution and to organise compartmentalised distribution networks so as to ensure that products bearing the R symbol were not distributed in the territory of states which maintained such a prohibition.

Such a prohibition was indistinctly applicable to national and to imported products. It sought to avoid the risk of error with respect to the place where the trademark was registered and protected, and the question whether the product was of national or foreign origin was irrelevant in that respect.

It was therefore necessary to examine whether such a prohibition might be justified on the basis of mandatory requirements.

The argument that the prohibition was justified because the use of the R symbol, indicating that a trademark was registered, might mislead consumers if it had not been registered in the country where the goods were being distributed, could not be accepted.

On the one hand, it had not been established that, in practice, the R symbol was generally used and understood as indicating that the trademark had been registered in the country where the product was being distributed.

On the other hand even supposing that consumers, or some of them, might be misled on that point, such a risk could not justify such a substantial impediment to the free movement of goods, because consumers were more interested in the characteristics of the product than in the place where the trademark had been registered.

It had also been argued that the use of the R symbol in a state in which the trademark had not been registered was to be regarded as an act of unfair competition in respect of other competitors and that, if the registering of a trademark in any member state of the Community was sufficient to justify the use of the symbol, manufacturers might choose to register their trademarks in states with the least strict requirements.

That argument could not be accepted. On the one hand, alert traders having an interest in establishing whether the trademark had been registered or not were in a position to check the legal status of the trademark in question in the public register.

On the other hand a person who registered a trademark in a given member state sought essentially to obtain the benefit of legal protection in that state. The R symbol, like other symbols indicating that the trademark was registered, was of a subsidiary or complementary nature in relation to that legal protection which was the purpose of registration.

On those grounds the European Court ruled: Article 30 of the EEC Treaty was to be interpreted as prohibiting the application of a national rule on unfair competition which enabled a trader to seek, in the territory of a member state, the prohibition of the distribution of a product bearing the letter R, surrounded by a circle next to a trademark, where that mark had been registered in another member state, but not in the state in which the prohibition was sought.



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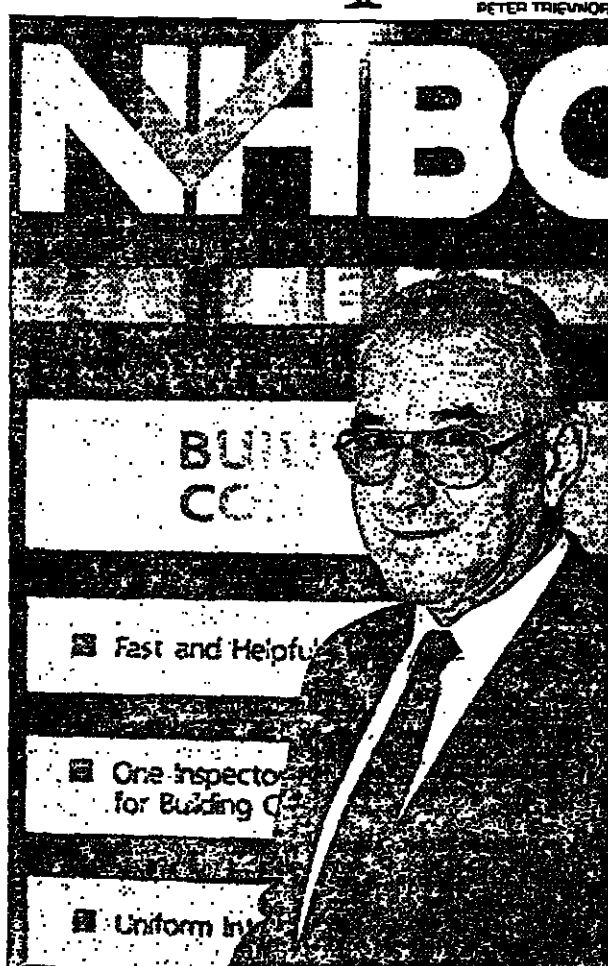
As a result, all three months rolling premium rate commitments will expire 3 months from the date of this notice ie. on 5 May 1991.

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ECCD



# Competition threatens homes warranties



Chief executive Basil Bean: "The cowboy is not dead"

A report sitting on the desk of Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, is casting a shadow over the future of the National House Building Council (NHBC). For, serious as the current depression in the construction industry is, an enquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) could, the council believes, do more to destroy its main achievement of the past 35 years.

At risk is the ten-year guarantee that every builder and developer registered with the NHBC gives on a new home. The issue is over the council's rule 12 which insists that registered builders guarantee all their homes.

Last year the MMC investigated whether the rule was anti-competitive after Mutual Municipal Insurance indicated that it would offer an alternative warranty. That report has now been submitted to Mr Lilley and publication is expected soon.

John Spalding, the council chairman, says in his annual report: "The enquiry has absorbed a great deal of senior staff and consultants' time and effort. Some of the new developments in our corporate plan have been put back, due to the high level of uncertainty caused by the enquiry and the lack of management time resulting from the enquiry."

The council feels that if developers can pick and choose which buildings to register under the ten-year guarantee scheme, they will

Builders could abandon their guarantees and buyers lose protection, Britain's housing standards council claims. Rodney Hobson reports

choose to guarantee only the best houses. Basil Bean, the chief executive of the NHBC, says: "The consumer may have no protection when he thought he was covered. If some houses on a site were regulated and not others, it would add to the costs and we would not see the builder's total production. It would destroy the confidence the consumer now enjoys."

The NHBC was formed in 1936 as the Housing Improvement Association, a self-regulatory body, because building industry leaders were concerned about faulty work. The council received all-party support in parliament in 1965, and in March 1966 it won the backing of the building societies.

Mr Bean says: "We know from other parts of the construction industry that the cowboy is not dead. He still operates in small-scale residential developments and conversions."

"However, because of the discipline we impose on the industry, ours is the most effective form of industry self-regulation there is. In and around the Sixties, cowboy building was on the lips of everyone, including members of parliament. Seldom do you now hear questions in parliament about poor quality."

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Environment department (observers)  
Federation of Master Builders  
House-Builders Federation  
Institution of Civil Engineers  
Law Society  
National Council of Material Producers  
National Council of Women  
Royal Institute of British Architects  
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors  
Royal Town Planning Institute  
Society of Community Medicine  
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians

"A new house is the largest investment you are going to make. There are government regulatory bodies for buying shares, but we regulate ourselves."

The NHBC is run as a commercial body, despite being non-profit-making. This is why it changed the title of its senior executive from director-general to chief executive. Being cost-efficient has high priority. The NHBC is not a trade associ-

ation and its council includes all the main bodies concerned with house building and consumer protection. Membership is reviewed regularly, and a recent recruit was a representative from the British Standards Institution. Council meetings are unpaid.

Mr Bean says: "Some of the decisions we take are not necessarily welcomed wholeheartedly by house builders. Improvements to technical specifications will add to the cost of building a house. We try to get a consensus, since improvements will eliminate defects and the cost of claims, so the industry will get the benefit of lower insurance premiums."

The council often introduces new requirements on a voluntary basis so that the industry has time to get used to them before they are made mandatory. An example is information to be supplied to home-buyers on the size of rooms and the number and location of power points, which becomes compulsory on April 1. Improvements to security, including window catches and door locks, were agreed by a committee including police, the Home Office and prisoner rehabilitation experts, and phased in gradually. These

desirable features are now as commonplace as hot and cold water," Mr Bean says.

The council is also investigating standards for free-standing walls and drainage, at the request of the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Claims for structural defects have shown a fall in recent years, although part of the drop may reflect the low level of house building in 1979-82; claims tend to come seven to nine years after building. From £9.1 million in the year to March 1987, the figure fell to about £2.6 million in 1988, £7.5 million in 1989 and about £7 million last year. "There is an important link between our claims experience and the monitoring and raising of standards," Mr Bean says. "For example, flat roof claims have been virtually eliminated since we revised our specifications."

The NHBC has three sources of income. There is a modest joining fee and an annual renewal fee based on the developer's productivity during the previous three years. The biggest fee paid by builders is for each house they register. This fee is based on the selling price of the dwelling, the length of time the builder has been on the register and also his claims record.

The average fee works out at 0.3-0.4 per cent of the cost of the house, an average of about £250 a house for the UK. "For that, the builder has information, guidance and advice, about ten inspections, and protection for ten years."

## Getting tough over shoddy workmanship

Any of the 30,000 member builders in Britain who fail to meet the council's high standards face being thrown out

Builders on the National House Building Council's register range from the giants to the doddlers, but they have one thing in common: to get on the register, they have had to prove that they are financially sound and can build to required standards.

To ensure that there is no backsliding, the council is prepared to discipline rule-breakers, even to expel those who refuse to put right bad work.

More than 30,000 builders throughout Britain belong to the council, and more applications roll in each year. More than 90 per cent of all houses built for sale in Britain are erected by council members.

At one end of the scale, well-known names with stock-market listings, such as Tarmac, Bovis, Barratt and Beazer, each build between 12,000 and 14,000 homes a year. In contrast, the register contains family firms employ-

ing against faulty work. Applicants to join the national register have to provide financial and other references which are investigated. Builders are interviewed by council technical staff to assess their ability.

The NHBC says: "Great care is taken to check any connection between applicants and firms previously deleted from the register. The applicant may have to accept responsibility for any claims received from purchasers of homes built by a connected company."

To improve standards and to reduce the cost of claims that the whole industry has to bear from the minority who default, the council imposes sanctions on problem builders.

A special team looks at sites causing concern. If defects pointed out by council inspectors are not put right, surcharges may be imposed. To show it means business, the council strikes about 40 builders a year off its register.

The disciplinary committee has a reputation in the industry for being tough. Builders do not go soft on their fellow members out of misplaced sympathy. However, the council says it does everything in its power to make a member comply with its standards. It regards striking off a member as a failure by the council as well as the builder.

But raising standards means more than threatening members. The council looks for new ways to ensure that houses give good service long after the warranty has run out, monitoring recurring defects.

One of the council's early successes was to discover why concrete ground floors sank and cracked. Research showed the problem arose when infill under the floor was more than 600mm deep and had not been properly compacted. A 1975 council regulation required floors above deep infill to be suspended from the walls.

By 1981, the council was up on the roofs, finding out why flat ones were leading to millions of pounds worth of claims. Clear directions were introduced for the correct use of materials and the minimum slope was increased to ensure that water ran off more easily.

Insulation of homes has improved, but that brought problems in the winter of 1985-86. Many tanks and pipes froze in cold roof spaces. Insulation is now placed over pipes and tanks instead of under them.

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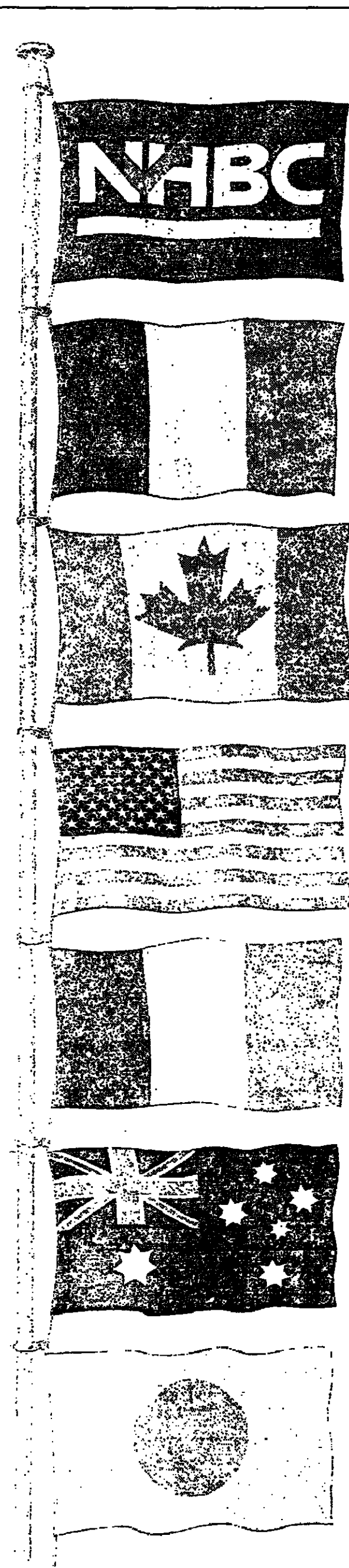
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THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Developers and house-builders at year ended September 30	
1985	24,633
1986	25,066
1987	25,704
1988	27,071
1989	28,491
1990	29,858

### OF THE REGISTER

During 1989/90, 46 firms were struck off the register for:

%

Failure to remedy defects 27

Failure to honour arbitration awards 6

Failure to register homes 52

Failure to honour liability for an associate 6

Failure to give NHBC agreements to buyers 9





Progress report: Ken Sampson (centre), regional winner of the housing site supervision award, and the NHBC's Michael Moore check on-site work

## Building pride into the job

**On any project, a good site manager is vital for success.**

**Michael Hatfield reports on the search for the best in Britain**

To the untrained eye, one building site is like any other: a scene of muscular activity, of churning cement-mixers, banging hammers and clanging scaffolding. But there are good sites and there are bad sites, as any victim of shoddy and delayed work will testify.

Ten years ago, the National House Building Council (NHBC) launched its Pride in the Job campaign to improve standards. Every year, awards are made to the best manager of a large building site and to the best supervisor of a site with fewer than 200 units a year.

The winner of the large-site award in 1990 was Richard Wozniakiewicz of Ideal Homes Midlands, for his company's 220-unit development in Countershorpe, Leicestershire. Stuart Kirk, with



Winner of 1990's large-site award Richard Wozniakiewicz (right), with Sir Lawrie Barratt, of Barratt Homes

Barratt South Wales, won the other for the Ridgmont Park site at Langstone, near Newport, Gwent.

They were judged the best from 20,000 site managers who came under the scrutiny of the council's inspectors. After the inspectors make recommendations, regional directors pick the top 100 site supervisors, then the regional

winners. Finally, the council's national executives visit the sites to select the two winners.

Marks are awarded for on-site organisation, quality of substructure, superstructure, finishes, external works and quality control.

Diane Davis, the council's special events manager, says: "A potential award winner may be a good site manager,

but he may have a bad reputation among those who have moved into homes on the site. They may not like the workmanship on their homes, or his attitude, and would be quick to make their views known."

To avoid an embarrassing clash, the council commissions National Opinion Polls to carry out a housing survey

on the sites, including oblique questions about site supervision. The council aims to ensure that it gives an award to a Mr Clean.

Basil Bean, the council's chief executive, says that high standards of quality, and therefore site organisation and management, will become increasingly important as the industry readies itself to meet stiffer competition. "This competition will be internal," he adds, "as the rate of new household formation falls in with demographic trends, and external, as European and other builders seek to exploit the external market."

He predicts rising customer expectations as new-home buyers - many in the market for the second or third time - look for the quality and reliability standards they can now count on in new cars and consumer goods.

## When an inspector calls

Standards are changing in today's housing industry

Smoke detectors may become an integral part of new homes when the National House Building Council (NHBC) this month takes a decision on the issue.

It is a measure that fire service chiefs have sought for some time, but they failed to get the environment department to include it in the government's building regulations.

The council is pursuing the idea as part of the construction requirements for its 30,000 members, who represent 95 per cent of builders and developers of new homes (Michael Hatfield writes).

The initiative is part of a broader scrutiny of all aspects of house security being examined by the council's standards committee in consultation with the police, fire service and consumer groups.

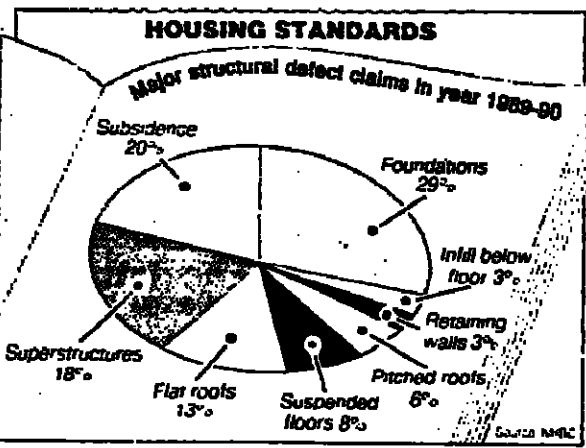
The issue of smoke detectors is not controversial, but other policy standards are not so straightforward.

The council, which has just completed revising its 300-page handbook of technical requirements for members on the design and construction of dwellings, is wrestling with a difficult problem: how best to make secure a front door.

The police would like a key to be used on the outside and inside. The fire service, on the other hand, argues that if the key is mislaid, there can be delays when escaping from a house during a fire. They would prefer to see a night latch and bolts on the inside. The police say these are easier for a house-breaker to undo.

Ian Davis, the council's director of standards, says: "We are continuing our consultations, but eventually we shall adopt a policy that will have to be implemented by our members."

The issue of detectors and door locks, when resolved, will be only two of a series of technical requirements im-



Major structural defect claims in year 1989-90

posed on council members and enforced by a nationwide team of 80 qualified engineers and building surveyors and 400 trained inspectors.

It is estimated that there are 20,000 sites for new homes in the United Kingdom. Engineers and building surveyors are first in when planning permission is given by a council, inspecting the plans and designs and such basics as foundations and drainage.

It is the inspectors who examine the quality of construction behind the plaster and woodwork, sometimes in

and have accounted for 20 per cent and superstructures, including brickwork and render failure, 18 per cent of complaints. The settlement of floors once accounted for 40 per cent of complaints. This has been cut to 8 per cent.

Remediating structural defects costs money, either to the builder or the council, which is why there is a constant tightening up of technical requirements and standards.

The inspector, therefore, when he pokes and prods around the foundations, will not only want to see if the right bricks have been used, or whether the height is correct, but will want to know whether the cement has been mixed to the specified consistency.

The same rigorous inspection is carried out throughout the dwelling, from load bearing walls and floors to roof spaces, services and decoration.

Failure by members, after inspection and completion, to meet their obligations if there are complaints can lead to expulsion from the council, although there are a variety of conciliation stages through which a builder can pass before that can happen.

From 1989 to 1990, 46 companies were expelled from the council, half of them for failing to register homes and about a quarter for failing to remedy defects. Other reasons were failure to honour arbitration awards, liability for an associate and failure to exchange council agreements with the home-buyers.

More than 40 companies were expelled, some for not fixing faults

the company of a surveyor, which the house-owner is not able to see. The council spends £250,000 a year training inspectors.

When an inspector visits a site, and there is more than one visit, he carries with him the handbook and a checklist of inspections, called Target 35. This identifies the key stages of construction and targets those elements where potential problems occur. It also records every inspection in every home under council warranty and building control.

Foundations were the cause of 29 per cent of structural defect claims against the council last year. Subsidence

## Britain's safety net wins EC praise

CLAUDE MATHURIN, a French civil engineer consultant, spent three years investigating for the European Commission the responsibilities, guarantees and insurances of the European construction industry. He concluded that the integrity and efficiency behind the National House Building Council scheme was seen by competent and impartial observers as the best.

The accolade has been welcomed by the council as it awaits the decision this year of the inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into home-building insurance.

The EC identified consumer confidence and high level of home purchaser protection as

key principles in creating a Europe-wide market for house-building.

The systems of home warranty and protection around the world fall into two broad types. Like Britain, some countries use industry self-regulation. Others prefer to regulate the industry from outside.

In France, a ten-year insurance-based warranty, has been mandatory since 1947. If a defect appears within ten years of completion, the build-

ing's owner must claim on his or her insurance. The insurer recovers money from one or more of the other parties. In Belgium, the system is similar. The Dutch system has many similarities with the UK model. There is governmental influence because many municipalities sell land only to builders registered with the scheme.

The Spanish parliament is to introduce compulsory warranties. The Swedish government insists on a warranty for

all homes that receive state mortgages.

The big difference between the systems operating internationally is cost. The French, Belgian and Swedish systems, which give slightly better cover, cost at least five times as much as the system run in Britain by the NHBC. The Dutch system provides better cover, but the scheme costs about 50 per cent more.

The American and Canadian systems, both broadly modelled on the British scheme, offer similar value for money. But the lack of central control over warranty programmes in the US is said to be creating problems.

MICHAEL HATFIELD

## How the scheme works

CARRYING the endorsement of the National House Building Council does not give a builder carte blanche to do what he likes. It means control. The council's inspectors make regular visits to sites to make sure that specifications are met.

More than the reputation of the council is at stake. Complaints about faulty workmanship could cost huge sums of money if the home-buyer is dissatisfied (Michael Hatfield writes).

Control starts early in the house-building process. Preliminary advice is given on schemes, followed by a checking of working drawings and site approval. Inspectors will carry out initial ground investigations and there will be site approval.

Not all homes on a site are necessarily inspected in detail. It is possible for the builder to be given "type approval", which means that a particular design, or construction feature likely to be repeated, complies with the building regulations and technical stipulations of the council.

House type approval is generally given for above-ground construction, but may include ground-floor construction and other variations.

Once a builder has been given house type approval, he will not normally need to send further drawings for the superstructure with his site application.

The local authority's powers of enforcement for breaches under the regulations are suspended where an approved council inspector supervises the work. A builder must rectify any contravention the council has notified within three months, or within six weeks of occupation.

## Security for older home-buyers



Homes for the elderly: a new development in Cumbria

OLD PEOPLE in sheltered housing need special safeguards, such as a warden and an alarm-monitoring system, and to have their rights clearly explained. The National House Building Council has its own code for sheltered housing, which was strengthened last year.

The council insists that the first buyer of a sheltered dwelling must be given an information pack when reserving the property. Buyers thus have time to consider the details. Information must be in type large enough for those with limited sight.

The management organisation taking over the running of the development must enter into a management agreement on NHBC terms. These terms must be complied with even if the freehold or leasehold is sold to another company.

Information supplied to the buyer includes details of the landlord and the management organisation, and will set out the buyer's legal rights and the main provisions of any lease, such as ground rent, services

and facilities and any limitations, such as on pets.

Buyers must also be told of arrangements for consultation between the residents' association and the landlord or management organisation, which must recognise any association with 51 per cent of the residents as members.

The council says residents are entitled to be consulted on issues involving the management of the estate and must be given a copy of the accounts for management services, audited by an independent accountant. Residents must be given a copy of the proposed budget for management services for the coming financial year and there should be at least one meeting of all buyers before the annual review of service charges.

The code calls for buyers to be given details of charges, including a breakdown of how they are split between dwellings, as well as a warning of how often charges will be collected and reviewed.

RODNEY HOBSON

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## Night shift children

CHILDREN are working into the early hours in nightclubs, factories and markets before going to school, Nottinghamshire welfare officers have found. Their report is likely to lead to prosecutions under the Children and Young Persons Act.

The officers estimate that thousands of children in the county are working illegally. A survey found that 122 of the 560 pupils at a comprehensive school and 15 children in a primary school had night jobs. One pupil, preparing for GCSE, was working through the night at a sock factory, then going straight to the classroom. Others worked in markets as early as 5am before going to lessons.

Brian Isham, the principal education officer responsible for the report, says that schools were flabbergasted by the findings. "Children are being exploited and their education is suffering," he says. "They are turning up late for school or staying away altogether and their homework is neglected. Children from all sorts of backgrounds are involved. Many youngsters want the cash to spend on trendy gear and entertainment."

### Play dough

PRE-SCHOOL playgroups are to receive another £450,000 from the government. Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, announced an annual increase of £150,000 for the next three years while visiting to a playgroup in Brixton, south London. The present grant to the Pre-School Playgroups Association is £420,000 a year.

### Yo, ho, Ken

KENNETH CLARKE, the education secretary, has never been shy about admitting to tastes that set him apart from most of his cabinet colleagues. His outside interests have included down-to-earth items such as football, jazz clubs, beer and curries and an admiration for the Nottingham Forest manager, Brian Clough.

Last week, he added an altogether more exotic character to the list in the form of the 18th-century pirate Blackbeard. Launching a campaign to educate primary school children about British shipping, he confessed that his attention had been diverted from the pressing

business of teachers' pay by an account in the information pack for schools on Blackbeard's last stand off North Carolina.

Mr Clarke suggested that the pirate was a "spirited political figure of a previous age" before demonstrating his own spirit on the deck of the Wellington, the master mariners' headquarters on the Thames, by allowing sea cadets to tie him to a chair for press photographers.

### The drain brain

A FORMER rat-catcher and drainman, and a part-time stuntman headed the Open University's annual parade of unusual occupations among this year's 6,118 graduates. Now an education welfare officer, Stephen Barker, of Runcorn, Essex, worked as a drainman, rat-catcher, wasp-killer and milkman to continue studying and support his family.



Colin Guppy, from Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, left school at 15 with no qualifications and did a variety of jobs, including that of a stunt-man, before heading about the university. He is now a cost planner but still holds the world record for riding a motor cycle through a tunnel of fire.

### This way, gran

THE QUEEN and Duke of Edinburgh will have their grandchildren as guides when they visit Port Regis school, in Shaftesbury, Dorset, next month. David Prichard, the headmaster, has decided to take a back seat and allow Peter and Zara Phillips, children of the Prince and Princess of Wales, to show off their dormitories and classrooms. Zara, aged nine, will join 50 other pupils in a gymnastic display to mark the opening of a £1.2 million gym, to be named the Queen's Hall, Peter, aged 13, leaves the school in July.

JOHN O'LEARY

# The blackboard battleground

The Gulf war is creating friction and dissent in American classrooms, Lucy Hodges reports. But it is also giving an incentive to improve the teaching of geography and history

THE war in the Gulf is becoming a topic for discussion in British schools, but in the classrooms of the United States it is already a political hot potato. Disputes have erupted about children wearing yellow buttons in support of the allied troops and students have walked out of class, protesting at a lack of attention to the war, while others have been demonstrating for peace.

The ferment, which reflects support for the American troops, but in some cases a distaste for war, is being seized on by teachers seeking new new ideas for geography and history lessons.

Primary school children, for example, are learning about the Islamic culture of the Middle East, where Iraq is on the map of the world and the reasons for the invasion of Kuwait. Secondary pupils are drawing parallels between what is happening now and the presidential and congressional roles at the start of the American Civil War.

There is almost universal concern not to repeat the experiences of the Vietnam war, when the subject was barely discussed in classrooms while it was tearing the country apart. And there is a great desire in some quarters to explain the Arab viewpoint, as well as the American.

At the start of Gulf hostilities, six-year-olds at Burning Tree school, in Bethesda, Maryland, near Washington, for example, thought the Gulf was only a few miles away and that it was all right for a strong nation to take over a weak one. They now know better. "I have tried not to upset them," said Estelle Woodcock, their teacher. "I have raised the subject gently, trying to find out how much they have been talking about the war at home and responding to their worries. We have discussed the right of countries to be independent and I have tried to correct fallacies. But one has to be sensitive, and careful not to expound on one's own feelings."

In a neighbouring classroom, however, yellow ribbons are fluttering as a sign of support for the American troops, put up by a teacher who has relations fighting in the Gulf, but students walking

out of class and disrupting lessons is not tolerated.

At Mount Vernon high school in Fairfax, Virginia, 500 students walked out in protest at the principal's decision to cancel an order for yellow buttons displaying the legend: "Keeping America Free: Mount Vernon HS Supports Our Troops and Free Enterprise". The buttons were considered too political and a sign that the school as an institution took a position on the war.

Another walkout erupted at Hempfield Area high school near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, when 150 students complained that not enough time was being devoted to the war. They were punished with suspensions for leaving classes without permission.

James Miller, the students' spokesman, who has a brother and three other relations serving in the Gulf, was suspended for five days. The demonstration yielded results. After the walkout, the school put a television in the cafeteria so that the children could watch news broadcasts, and morning discussion groups are now being held by social studies teachers before classes begin.

A spontaneous demonstration for peace took place soon after the war broke out at Bethesda-Chevy Chase high school in Maryland, and a few students at nearby Walt Whitman high school wore black clothes emblazoned with white arm bands, representing the horror of war and the hope for peace.

School principals have shown uncertainty about how to handle the outpouring of feelings. At Earle R. Wood middle school in Maryland, for example, the head refused to allow teenagers to sing the "Star-spangled Banner" in tribute to American troops, but changed her mind after complaints.

Such incidents have led some school districts to issue guidelines on lessons about the Gulf conflict. Staff in Montgomery County, Maryland, have received two sets of instructions, one cancelling all school trips abroad because of the supposed terrorist threat, the other advising staff to use the war "as a learning experience". Teachers are told to allow a reasonable amount of time for discussion of the war



Suspended for walking out: James Miller has a brother and three other relations serving in the Gulf

and to conduct an open debate, including differing viewpoints. They may use the radio and television, but not leave them on all day. They are told to use maps and globes so that pupils know where the Gulf war is taking place and to teach about the relationships of the Arab nations, Israel and the US to one another.

Many schools are encouraging children to exchange letters and videotapes with soldiers. Letters from troops are read out in class. Mrs Woodcock's six-year-olds at Burning Tree school were fascinated to hear about Saudi Arabia

from Bill Williams, a naval reserve stationed in Jeddah. He told of the affluent lifestyle, Islam and the heat, but all the children remembered was that thieves have their hands chopped off and that left-handedness is banned.

The crisis has forced many staff teaching older high-school children to bone up on the Middle East. Joyce Briscoe, a world history teacher at La Cueva High School, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, developed a crash course on the Gulf region from her researches in the local library.

She says: "It seemed to me that

in the first couple of days of the war, students were getting a lot of opportunity to vent their feelings and present their points of view, but mine wanted hard information on which they could make decisions. So I incorporated the Gulf in an existing course on the West's relation to the third world.

"These children were born after Vietnam war to them this war is news. I wanted them to appreciate that this is not an isolated event, but part of a pattern that has been going on for years. This is a golden opportunity to make history a contemporary subject."

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THORNTON COLLEGE



## Better tests of a child's potential

School reports may be misleading. To gain a more accurate assessment, progress needs to be linked to a pupil's ability to achieve

WE HAVE all read school reports that say, "Andrew is under-achieving", and "Barbara is making pleasing progress". But how can teachers be sure Andrew is under-achieving? Perhaps Barbara is capable of making excellent rather than just pleasing progress, and her parents should be concerned.

The need to compare achievements with abilities lies at the heart of so many of the present discussions in education. Can a value-added aspect be found for every pupil? How does one fairly recognise a good school?

The simplest method is to count A grades or GCSE or A-level. But the select intake of some schools should produce these top grades. Other schools with a wider range of abilities among pupils may be more efficient. Parents consider these matters and make guesses in choosing schools most likely to benefit their children.

When the first 11-year-old girls joined Sevenoaks school, Kent, at which I teach, in 1984, a closer watch was kept on the relative achievements of boys and girls. When grades were counted, it was found that the girls' achievements equalled the boys at O and A-levels.

When GCSE examinations replaced O-levels, results were again well balanced, apart from the girls' gaining more A grades. Top A grades are more plentiful under GCSE.

It is possible, though, to be more precise if the intelligence quotient (IQ) is considered. At Sevenoaks, connections linking IQ scores, GCSE results and A-level results for last summer's leavers are known. We have many pupils with high ability who need little help in choosing subjects at A-level. But for the majority who do not have IQs of 145 but perhaps 125 or so, the level of achievement to expect at GCSE is becoming clearer. For these pupils, counting three points for a grade A, two for B and one for C, the total points gained at GCSE can be found. The total roughly matches the IQ less 100. Other rules of thumb, to estimate the total number of A-level points to be expected, can be used. The

IQ and GCSE grade methods give very approximate results. The best predictor of an A-level grade in any one subject is the mean GCSE result. To find this mean, count seven points for every A grade, six for a B and so on. Divide this total by the number of subjects. If Barbara gained eight grade Bs, one A and one C, the mean for her GCSE results is 6.0, equivalent to a grade B.

What are her chances at A-level in various subjects? By comparing every student's GCSE mean with the grades obtained in his or her subjects at A-level, a chart can be drawn up and predictions made for future pupils. (It is sensible to exclude the extreme means of the top and bottom 25 per cent of students gaining every grade in every A-level subject.)

A chart compiled by Sevenoaks showed the links for the school last summer. It suggested that Barbara with a GCSE mean grade B could get A grades in history,

geography and business studies, or B grades in English, mathematics, physics or chemistry. Other rules of thumb suggest that with an IQ of 120, she is unlikely to gain A grades in all her three chosen subjects, but should do well enough to get a university place if she wants, or a place at a polytechnic. If she gains three grade Bs or less at A-level, she has under-achieved by Sevenoaks standards. If she obtains two A grades and a B, she has made excellent progress.

Data for pupils from other schools could be charted similarly. Is it necessary for schools to struggle with more complicated assessment criteria? Primary teachers now have to spend weeks at a time testing and assessing their pupils.

Using guidelines such as I have described would enable schools to assess more simply the effectiveness of their academic teaching. Reports would still commend Barbara and challenge Andrew to achieve more, but would be based on a wealth of past experience.

**PATRICIA JOHNSON**  
The author is senior mistress of Sevenoaks School, Kent.

*Reports would still commend and challenge, but would be based on a wealth of past experience*



Eager to learn: pupils at Cheltenham Ladies' College. Now children from less well off homes may be able to enjoy a privileged education, thanks to more assisted place awards

## Why charity begins at school

A report published today shows that private school heads are to put more effort into establishing bursaries in order that extra places may be offered to less fortunate children. John O'Leary reports

Nobody can pretend that independent education is as yet affordable for the majority of the population, but schools have made strenuous efforts to widen their social bases in the past few years.

Put it down to prudent planning for the future or even a collective guilty conscience, but the change has been marked.

Since 1982, the number of pupils receiving scholarships or bursaries from their schools has doubled. A survey last year by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) put the total at 67,000, more than 14 per cent of pupils.

When the numbers benefiting from the government's assisted places scheme and other external awards from trusts and companies are included, the proportion receiving some help with fees rises to almost a quarter. Boys' schools fare better than girls' schools, but the number of awards is rising in every sector. Even the prep schools, where money is often less plentiful, now have more than 15,000 awards.

For many schools, the question is not whether they have enough scholarships and bursaries, but whether the money is being used in the most effective way. Prompted by an initiative from the Headmasters' Conference (HMC), many are rethinking their system of

awards with an eye to reaching more needy families.

As a first stage in this process, 174 HMC schools, mainly the bigger mixed or boys' schools, agreed to limit their maximum scholarships to half the fees unless a means test showed that parents still could not afford the cost of a place. Some of the remaining 56 conference members are following the spirit of the agreement, but are unable to sign up fully because their statutes guarantee larger awards.

The architect of the scheme is Martin Marriott, the headmaster of Cranford school, near Bourne-mouth. He says: "Most of the schools have pretty limited resources to put into scholarships and bursaries. Often the scholarships go to boys whose parents are already paying the full fees. I felt I would rather give a limited sum to reward a pupil academically, but save some of the money to give to other boys and girls as bursaries."

"This ties in happily with the fact that we are all charitable institutions. I think it is appropriate that we should be giving away more of our money to enable

children to come to our schools who otherwise could not do so."

Cranford will be among the schools implementing the agreement this year, reducing the maximum value of a dozen scholarships from the present 75 per cent of fees. A bursary scheme for the sons of clergymen has always enabled the school to maintain a good balance between awards for excellence in art, music or academic achievement, and those for poorer parents, but the switch will tip the balance further.

Some would like to see an even lower threshold. Derek Jewell, the master of Halesbury, who saw the agreement through the HMC, says: "I would like to see the limit set at 30 per cent, but it was important to make a start. One of the things I feel strongly about is that if we are charitable institutions, we should act charitably."

"Since we have never had means testing before, it is impossible to say how much money can be redistributed like this, but, since a lot of scholarships go to boys from prep schools, it is fair to assume that it will be quite a lot."

The bursars' association has issued a model form to carry out the means tests, although schools are free to adjust the thresholds. Parents are asked to declare income and capital assets, enabling the schools to calculate net family resources after the deduction of mortgage payments and any other school fees.

Although the details of the criteria used are confidential, the effect at the mid-point of the scale is for a family with net resources of £20,000 a year to be asked to contribute about £4,000 in fees.

Some girls' schools are moving in the same direction, although the impact will be less marked because of the smaller number of scholarships available. At Cheltenham Ladies' College, for example, internal scholarships are already means tested, and apart from one award worth two-thirds of fees, the 50 per cent principle is accepted.

Enid Castle, the headmistress, says: "We still do not offer many scholarships. It is difficult: we have established a bursary fund and we are trying to build it up, but a fund of £100,000 does not go far

when your fees are £9,000 a year." Most of the money from the fund goes to support existing pupils who experience a family tragedy or who otherwise would have to leave because of changed financial circumstances at home. The college also has a range of scholarships to reward outstanding talent in music and art, as well as academic prowess.

With fees throughout most of the independent sector rising faster than inflation, the demand for scholarships and bursaries is certain to increase, and the schools recognise the importance of making more people aware of the opportunities they offer. A survey published today by ISIS found four out of five heads intending to put more effort into promotion and marketing.

The survey, of 50 independent schools of all types, showed that those intentions, however, were often not put into practice. Only one in five had carried out any market research among parents in the past five years, and most relied on five or six hours a week by a staff member for promotion.

David Woodhead, the national director of ISIS, says: "The survey confirms that most schools now recognise that a good communications policy is an essential element in the running of a successful school. But they have to put those intentions into practice."

## INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Continued on next page

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## EDUCATIONAL

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## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

### King's College London

University of London  
The City Solicitor's  
Educational Trust  
and the  
School of Law,  
King's College London

#### Lecturer in Jurisprudence and Legal Reasoning

The School of Law at King's College London has recently received an award from the City Solicitor's Educational Trust, enabling the School to offer an appointment of a Lecturer in Jurisprudence and Legal Reasoning.

Jurisprudence and Legal Reasoning are taught as core subjects in the LL.B degree, and the Lecturer will be expected to take a leading role in the development of these courses.

The appointment will be on the Lecturer Grade A scale (£13,853 - £18,522 including London Allowance). Re-imbursement of relocation costs will be considered.

Application forms and further particulars of the post may be obtained from Miss Grace Alleyne on 071-873 2273. Complete applications, including a full CV and the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent to Miss Grace Alleyne, School of Law, King's College London, Strand, WC2R 2LS. Please quote reference AL/002 with your enquiry and application.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 22 February 1991.

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

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Further particulars may be obtained from Professor B.A. Hepple, Head of Department of Laws, University College London, Bentham House, Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0EG, telephone 071 380 7082.

Applications (10 copies) including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of 3 referees should be sent to the Provost University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT by 22nd February 1991. Equal Opportunities Employer.

## INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Continued from page 27

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Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer (Academic Staff), quoting Ref. No. 9102/2, Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET. Tel: 021-359 0870 (24-hour answerphone). Closing date for the receipt of applications 28th February, 1991.

## ASTON UNIVERSITY

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

#### FACULTY OF LAW

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Further particulars are available from the Personnel Department (L192), University of Southampton Highfield, Southampton, SO9 5NH to which applications (7 Copies) including the names and addresses of two referees should be sent by 1 March 1991, quoting reference number L192. Anyone wishing to discuss the post should telephone Professor Roy Lewis (0703 552435).

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University of London  
School of Law

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Application forms and further particulars of the posts may be obtained from Miss Grace Alleyne on 071-873 2273. Complete applications, including full CV and the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent to Miss Grace Alleyne, School of Law, King's College London, Strand, WC2R 2LS. Please quote reference AL/001 with your enquiry and application.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 22 February 1991.

The appointment will be on the Lecturer Grade A scale (£13,853 - £18,522 including London Allowance). Re-imbursement of relocation costs will be considered.

Application forms and further particulars of the posts may be obtained from Miss Grace Alleyne on 071-873 2273. Complete applications, including full CV and the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent to Miss Grace Alleyne, School of Law, King's College London, Strand, WC2R 2LS. Please quote reference AL/001 with your enquiry and application.

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### University of Cambridge

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Applications invited from candidates in any area of Public International Law for the above Chair tenable from 1 October 1991.

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# England's agony nears its end



# Ireland find comfort in defeat Scots can feel confident

...oney, but the selectors have named only four forwards, in Jane Sixsmith, Mary Nevill, Sandy Sowerby and Joan Lewis. Of that four, Lewis is making her way back from a

هكذا آمن الرسول







George Graham has time to reflect on irony as his side's unbeaten run in the Football League is halted at Stamford Bridge

# Tough week takes toll on Arsenal

By CLIVE WHITE

Chelsea 2  
Arsenal 1

IF THE result had not been so upsetting, George Graham, the Arsenal manager, would have enjoyed having the last laugh on Saturday. Held to ridicule for his apparent obsession for buying centre-backs — there are seven on Highbury's books — it was a little ironic that Arsenal's run of 23 League games without defeat should finally come to an end because of a lack of them.

At least, that was how Graham saw the reason for Arsenal's "failure" to add to what has been a magnificent club record. Disruptive though the half-time loss of Steve Bould, with an ankle injury, may have been to them, one could not help feeling that Arsenal lost this game over the course of two furiously contested FA Cup fourth round ties against Leeds United last week.

Graham insisted that was not the reason and that it was Arsenal, not Chelsea, who were going strong at the end. Nobody would question Arsenal's fitness but it did appear to several observers that the edge, both physical and mental, had been shaved off their game.

A further irony was that Graham had had Colin Pates, one of his few available centre-backs and, of course, a former Chelsea captain, on the bench at Leeds when he did not need him but left him out altogether at Stamford Bridge. Instead, David Hillier, a midfield player, was brought in to fill the void when Bould fell victim to what Graham thought was a late tackle from Gareth Hall.

The Arsenal manager saw it as the turning point in the game though his side's superiority had barely been apparent amid the welter of misplaced passes and interceptions by both sides in a derby of quite appalling standard. Veterans of this fixture,



Low-flying interception: a perfectly executed sliding tackle from Wise, of Chelsea, ends the run of the Swede, Linpar, of Arsenal, on Saturday

such as Ted Drake, Roy Bentley, Denis Compton, Reg Lewis and Bobby Tambling, all of whom were introduced to the crowd beforehand, must have left feeling envious only of the modern game's financial awards.

It cried out for their kind of quality and even the excellent Anders Limpar, superbly contained by Hall, could make no headway. Even Graham's reason for substituting Limpar in the 74th minute was an indictment of the game. "I wanted more power. Anders wants the

ball to feet, more quality stuff," he said. Arsenal had fallen behind seven minutes earlier to a goal which they conceded rather than Chelsea scored. David Seaman was wrong-footed by Nigel Winterburn, his own defender, as he came for a near-post flick by Kerry Dixon to a free kick from Hall.

Winterburn succeeded only in nudging the ball past his stranded goalkeeper to where Graham Stuart was presented with the simplest of headers. Until then, Stuart, being

played out of position as a replacement for Gordon Durie, who was suspended, had done no better or worse than the misplaced Hillier. It was in his natural role of provider rather than finisher that he was more deserving of plaudits.

One of the early products of the FA's school of excellence, since which he has become known as "Bobby" after the former England manager, he opened up the Arsenal defence with a beautifully incisive pass

to Damian Matthew, his young colleague, in the 88th minute. Matthew in turn neatly rounded Andy Linpar before unselfishly giving Dixon the chance to score. It was a sweet move irrespective of whether or not Dixon was offside, as Graham thought he was.

Alan Smith's goal in injury time was simply an indication of Arsenal's resilience. Let Liverpool be in no doubt, Arsenal will bounce back from this defeat. Bould's injury,

however, could present Arsenal with a problem, hard as it is to believe, at centre back, what with David O'Leary still injured and Tony Adams otherwise indisposed. Who knows? Perhaps Pates will finally get his chance to make a telling contribution.

CHelsea: D. Seaman; G. Hall, A. Doran, A. Townsend, S. Clarke, K. Morrison, G. Lo. S. Stuart (capt), J. Burroughs, D. Matthews, K. O'Grady, G. Stuart, D. Wilson.

ARSENAL: D. Seaman; L. Dixon, N. Winterburn, M. Thomas, S. Bould (capt), D. Hillier, P. Goss, P. Davis, S. Smith, P. Merson, A. Limpar (capt), K. Campbell, R. Veltman.

## Southampton are suitably dressed for old treatment

From PETER BALL

Sheffield United 4  
Southampton 1

YORKSHIREMEN of a certain age were used to seeing southern teams surrendering meekly in murky conditions at Bramall Lane. It happened all the time in the days of Bill Bowes or Freddie Trueman, and on Saturday Southampton revived an old tradition.

Fittingly, they were even wearing all white as Sheffield United claimed their biggest win of the season to move off the bottom of the first division for the first time since October. Suddenly things look very different, but the damage had already been done.

Even so, when Moore scored, the home side began to filter. The victim of influenza, the local expert suggested. Not a bit of it. "He had a meander and decided he was Hidekuni at centre-forward rather than playing midfield," Bassett said.

"When Glyn decides it's one of those days, he thinks he's the fairy on top of the cake." But if the love-hate relationship of their Wimbledon days has not abated, player and manager seem to have found a common language. "We've got to be patient," says Glyn. "We've got to be patient."

Sheffield reportedly cannot afford to keep him, but can they afford to let him go? He has brought a touch of class to the struggle, a commodity in desperately short supply at Bramall Lane since the days of Tony Currie, if not Len Hutton. It proved decisive in the fascinating days that lay ahead.

Sheffield United: S. Trueman, C. Winder, D. Barnes, R. Boucher, P. Sealey, G. Hill, G. Bradburn (capt), M. R. O'Connell, A. G. Hodgson (capt), J. Gannon, B. Deane, I. Bryson.

SOUTHAMPTON: T. Flowers, J. Dodd, A. Cook, J. Carr, K. Smith, R. O'Connell, N. Houghton, S. Goss, S. Hodge, A. Shearer, A. McLoughlin, R. Wallace, P. Hodge, I. G. Grahame.

IF A defeat that may well hasten his team's return to the second division did not noticeably dampen the spirits of Denis Smith, the Sunderland manager, the standard of refereeing during the course of an untidy and unattractive match most certainly did.

Having made clear his reluctance to criticise officials, Smith promptly crossed the thin line between discussion and accusation to question the validity of a penalty which was instrumental in deciding the outcome.

An incident in the 59th minute, increased Sunderland. Owers's outstretched hand made contact with a McCall pass and the referee, Keith Cooper, adjudging intent in an action which was possibly insensitive rather than premeditated, gave Everton a penalty.

Although Sheedy's kick was blocked by Norman, the ball fell kindly for the taker and he produced a clinical finish at the second attempt.

Smith, who also saw four of his players cautioned in a tempestuous opening half, was dismayed by a decision that ushered Everton forward to a less than convincing but deserved victory.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Croxley, G. Charles, S. Pearson, D. Walker, S. Christie, S. Hodge, J. T. Wilson, N. Clough, H. Kettle, G. Parry.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N. Martyn, J. Hamer, R. Shaw, A. Gray, E. Young, A. Parry, J. Smith, G. Thomas, M. Bright, J. Wright, P. Barber.

Referee: K. Cooper.

POSTPONED: Burnley v Blackpool; Rochdale v Hartlepool; Wrexham v Macclesfield.

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## New parts required despite the glitter

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

Tottenham Hotspur 0  
Leeds United 0

ARRIVE at White Hart Lane by the front entrance and an Aladdin's Cave of a car park confronts you. BMWs, Porsches, Rolls-Royces and even a discreetly parked stretch limo. The place reeks of wealth and prosperity.

Yet Tottenham are deep in the throes of financial depression. An eight-figure debt, widespread City criticism and the all-too-real prospect of being forced to sell their most prized playing assets. On the pitch, it is much the same. The bodywork, sparkles and the engine purrs; sleek and sophisticated with a hint of steel. A team full of drive and eternal promise.

Yet the illusion is complete. Tottenham have long since conceded the first division title. Too many parts now need renewing. Despite a still gleaming exterior, they would struggle to pass an MOT.

Leeds United offered honest endeavour and valiant resistance on Saturday, plus several classic counter-attacks which kept Thorpe, the Tottenham goalkeeper, from freezing solid. Although they clearly travelled with such a style in mind, it became a matter of absolute necessity following the double loss of Chapman and Pearson.

Chapman, their 18-goal forward, lasted just 90 seconds. He ducked into a challenge from Sedgley, caught a boot full in the

face and crashed headlong into the surrounding cinder track. After a worrying few minutes, he was helped off with concussion, a broken nose and other facial injuries. Yesterday, he underwent surgery in Leeds and will stay in hospital for a few days.

Pearson, his replacement, failed to reappear for the second half after a crunching tackle from Van den Hauwe had left him with damaged knee ligaments. Leeds' continued progression in both FA Cup and Rumbelows Cup may now lie with the skills of their medical team.

Tottenham should have taken full advantage of their opponents' tale of woe. Following a non-event of a first half, they powered forward to test Luke in numerous occasions. While Van den Hauwe and Lincker all suffered at his safe hands.

Without Gascoigne, however, they lacked the guile or flash of inspiration to make the telling break as Leeds tired. England's favourite son was missing with a strange combination of high temperature and groin strain. There are many others at the club for whom life is not too good at the moment. All is not what it may seem at White Hart Lane.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E. Thorpe; T. Fenwick, P. Van den Hauwe, S. Sedgley, Kevin Smith, V. Samuels, G. Mabbett, Stewart, M. Thomas, P. Walsh, G. Lincker, P. Allen.

LEEDS UNITED: J. Luke; M. Sheridan, P. Haddock, M. Whitlock, G. Farquhar, C. Whyte, G. Speed, A. Williams, L. Chapman, S. Pearson, S. G. Snodgrass, G. McAllister, G. Strachan.

Referee: K. Barnett.

## Bull and Birch keep supporters happy

STEVE Bull did not disappoint his devotees, making one goal and scoring another — his twentieth of the season — as Wolverhampton Wanderers beat West Ham United 2-1 at Molineux on Saturday.

Considering that the teams took the field to Bull's personal fanfare, his familiar crew-cut adorned a thousand tea-shirts on sale around the ground and the place came alive whenever the object of all this adoration appeared within touching distance of the ball, it seemed the best he could do.

Even his most zealous supporter would acknowledge that Bull the creator is an unaccustomed role, but in the 44th minute he acted as a decoy, drawing the West Ham defenders out of position, and permitting Paul Birch to score with an angled drive.

It was Birch's first appearance for Wolves after a £400,000 transfer from Aston Villa, and he made a telling contribution down the right flank. With the blond winger wide, Wolves had an alternative option to their usual policy of thumping the ball up the field for Bull.

The second goal was due to an uncharacteristic error from Ian Bishop, whose ill-advised back-pass was gobbled up by Andy Mutch, who centred for Bull to do what he does best.

LOUISE TAYLOR reviews the second division

Frank McAviney reduced the deficit after Tony Gale's initial header rebounded off the bar, but the second division leaders had already been undone by the marriage of Bull's raw, often ragged, determination to Birch's vision and sureness of touch.

Wolves are now one place and two points short of a play-off position and will be encouraged by set-backs among the leadership on Saturday. Most surprising was Oldham Athletic's 5-1 defeat at Oxford United which prompted the question — just how good will they be after the Boundary Park plastic is dug up this summer?

Oldham say second, four points ahead of Sheffield Wednesday, who recovered from being two down at half-time to take a point at Watford. But their rivals hope that Wednesday's continued involvement in the FA and Rumbelows Cups will detract from their league performances.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS: M. Sheridan, P. Haddock, M. Whitlock, P. Birch, P. Crook, S. Bull, A. Mutch, R. Davidson (capt), S. Strain.

WEST HAM UNITED: L. Mulvey, J. Bracken, G. Parry (capt), M. Allen, A. Goss, J. Bishop, G. Hughes, K. Nien, F. McAviney, S. Slater (capt), J. Quinn, S. Potts, J. Morley.

Referee: S. Hill.

Nottingham Forest 0  
Crystal Palace 1

IN GAINING quick revenge for their FA Cup exit at the hands of Nottingham Forest last Monday, Crystal Palace gave their answer to those who believe that this season's championship is a two-horse race between Liverpool and Arsenal. Palace's second performance at the City Ground on Saturday suggested that their recent setbacks were a mere hiccup.

The way Palace survived an uncomfortable first 25 minutes, in which Forest could have scored three times, was the stuff of title contenders. Sensing that

Forest might have shot their bolt, Palace attacked more often in the second half and threatened a winner long before Eric Young obliged four minutes from the end.

The centre half, making a rare excursion into the Forest penalty area, beat everybody to Andy Gray's high, searching free kick, and the faintest of touches sent the ball past Mark Crossley, the Forest goalkeeper.

Full marks to Palace for doing their homework after a comprehensive defeat by Forest in the FA Cup third-round second replay. Geoff Thomas, the captain, filling in alongside Young, was as effective in defence as he has been in midfield, while John Salako, another versatile player, was no less reliable at left back,

the master of his fascinating duel with Gary Crosby.

Martyn, the Palace goalkeeper, played his part by saving well from Pearce and Chertic but could do little about a Crosby header which rattled the crossbar. Although Forest had far more of the ball, Palace created the better chances. This was mainly down to Wright's startling speed and awareness. A seventh-minute miss, when Humphrey's superb pass left him with only Crosby to beat, was the only blot on his display.

One feels that the Forest manager, Brian Clough, would gladly have swapped FA Cup progress for a victory on Saturday. Clough has made it clear that League football is his priority and that he is unhappy

at Forest being in the bottom half of the first division. He must have been unhappy, too, at how easily Palace dampened Forest's fire in the fourth meeting between these teams in the past month.

In the early stages, Palace were like a pack of Rotweillers, snapping at Forest's heels. Salako was booked for a harsh tackle and Parry and Gray were both spoken to. Palace justified their reputation as the Forest, unlike last Monday, ran out of steam and ideas.

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## FOOTBALL

## Orient pay tribute to talented teenager

KEITH BLACKMORE reviews the third and fourth divisions

THE match between Leyton Orient and Tranmere Rovers at Brisbane Road on Saturday was transformed into something to remember by a 16-year-old forward starting his first League match for the home team.

Ten featureless minutes had passed when Chris Bart-Williams, born in June 1974, announced his arrival with a dramatic flourish. Receiving a long but precise pass from Howard, he controlled the ball without breaking stride, sprinted between two converging defenders and cracked a splendid low shot past Nixon, probably the best goalkeeper in the third division. It was, by any standards, a wonderful goal and it set Orient on their way to a 4-0 victory.

By the 55th minute, when Bart-Williams went off with a cramp, Tranmere had been forced to revise their plans for the afternoon. John King, their manager, had replaced his left back, Brannan, who had been run ragged by Bart-Williams, and abandoned the sweeper system.

When Tranmere switched to all-out attack, there is usually something to see. This time, they were under no illusions. On the hour, Pike ran on to Carter's overhead kick to score Orient's second. Three minutes later, Castle headed a third goal. In the 87th minute, the end, Cooper, a substitute, added a fourth. There would have been more but for a magnificent double save by Nixon, first from Howard's kick, then from Carter's header.

Even 4-0 was a little unfair to Tranmere as Frank Clark, the manager of Orient, was ready to admit. "I thought they actually started the first half," he said. "But we defended well and scored four goals from eight or nine attempts when usually we get one from 20."

Not was he surprised by the immediate start of the match. It is a mature young man and we had no hesitation in playing him. He's been scoring goals like that for the juniors and reserves all season."

The result lifted Orient above Tranmere into sixth place, ten points behind Southend United, who regained leadership of the division by beating Shrewsbury Town with a goal from Angel.

Grimsby Town drew with Huddersfield Town and fell to second place.

Of the leading six teams in the fourth division, only Darlington, who beat York City, managed a win.

AYTON ORIENT: P. Hunt; J. Sten, T. Howard, G. Pike, A. Williams, D. Carter, D. Carter, M. Cooper, S. Castle, C. Bart-Williams (sub: S. Baker), G. Berry, L. Harvey.

TRANMERE ROVERS: E. Nixon, D. Howard, G. Brannan, G. M. Morrison, M. Hodge (sub: S. Cooper), S. Marshall, S. Victoria, K. Kinn, J. Harvey, J. Steel, L. Muir, A. Thomas.

Referee: R. Milford.

## First-half pressure pays off

By WALTER GAMMIE

WELLING's first-half performance against an Aylesbury side that warmed to its task too late ensured their passage into the last 16 of the FA Trophy at Park View Road on Saturday.

Welling, now firmly established in the GM Vauxhall Conference, are hard to beat at home and showed a pleasing blend of skill, especially from Phil Handford and Terry Robbins, and directness as they played positively from the start.

After four minutes, which had included a barrage of corners, Welling took the lead when Tony Reynolds lofted a ball into the area from the left touchline, scored on by Nigel Ransom for Gary Abbott to score from close range.

Aylesbury equalised in the thirteenth minute when Donagel outmanned Horton and crossed to the far post, where Collins deflected the ball in from a yard. That proved an isolated raid by Aylesbury. Welling dominated the remainder of the half with Robbins failing to profit from a string of half-chances in a hectic five-minute spell, and Reynolds deservedly restored their lead in the 37th minute with a high-quality free kick from 20 yards curled in with his left foot.

Trevor Gould, the Aylesbury manager, whose side had a season in the Conference two years ago, has learned the lesson from that experience that his side must be without weaknesses before going up again. "We need a ballwinner in midfield," he said. They employed Cliff Hercules, the regular centre forward, in that role on Saturday. It was no coincidence that Aylesbury looked more threatening when Hercules was thrown into attack in the closing 20 minutes, with Parsons pulling off a flying save to deny Donagel an equaliser from a header.

All the Conference sides pitted against opponents from the feeder leagues came through unscathed. Barrow, the holders, were held 0-0 by Kettering, the Conference leaders, at Holker Street.

WELLING UNITED: P. Parsons, M. Hodge, D. Horton, J. Gould, S. White, P. Handford, G. Collins, D. Wright, C. Hercules, D. Samson, C. Wright.

Referee: G. Pearson.

## SKIING

## Tomba crashes out as even the winning run is patchy

From BRIAN JAMES IN SAALBACH

TO ITS finish, the championship of a sport in which every yard raced seems a defiance of laws of gravity and probability, continued to bring its stars crashing down. Alberto Tomba, the biggest personality in skiing today, stormed head-first out of the starting box on his run for a giant slalom medal, and 13 seconds later was slinking, head down, for home.

The Italian caught an arm around a gate upright, and was hurled out of bounds. This unscripted end to the final and perhaps most dramatic race of the championship was entirely of a piece with earlier finishes of falls of Girardelli and Kronberger, and the incident when downhill favourite Hoeffner tripped over his pole in the first round.

Even now the drama was not done. The gold medal was awarded only "conditionally" to Rudi Nierlich until his suit had been examined by scientists to confirm that it passes safety standards. This will take a day or two, but either way Tomba is long past consolation. He was last seen by a television audience of many millions, a lone hunched figure vanishing amidst tourists labouring down steeper slopes, leaving the field, and the talking, to Nierlich, Urs Kaelin and Johann Wallner, takers of medals.

But it was significant, perhaps, that Nierlich, of Austria, slid a portion of his gold medal run, immediately before Tomba's own debacle, on his backside. Both men, with one or the other thought certain for victory, had to wait for endless minutes, paving the floor of the starting box while a dislodged banner was replaced.

Tomba, a man with the looks and build that would allow Hollywood to cast him as a middleweight or matinee idol, came to race with much to prove. An uncharacteristic clumsiness in the slalom placed him down to an unfamiliar fourth. His morning run yesterday shot him back to favour. His 27/100ths of a second lead over Nierlich, holder of both world slalom titles, was not huge, but Tomba's second-run charges are famous.



The competitive edge: Nierlich leans through a gate in the giant slalom

Nierlich had enough to worry about in any case over lunch. The Yugoslav team had protested that the Austrian champion's suit did not carry the official label confirming that it had passed the test for porosity. FIS dismissed the protest when witnesses confirmed that the patch which testifies that the suit is not dangerously slick in the event of a fall had been there at the start of his run. But many still called a Canadian squad being disqualified in Calgary for similar cause.

The second run was starting in its drama. Of the 15 seeds, six were to hold the lead before the winner. Three others led at halfway and either fell or faded. All, seeking 100ths, were trying a too-straight line. Nierlich, too, but sheer strength brought him up from a near-sitting position to crash through another gate for the victory.

With 120 starters from every nation that has a slope and the occasional snow-shower to coat it, this was a marvellously democratic finale. But none of the Eddie Edwards nonsense; even two Taiwanese, whose collective downhill challenge had lasted a total of 16 seconds, needed very considerable skill to pitch down this 1,200-foot drop, with an awkward-sited gate coming up every two seconds.

The tempo was wait-time.

## RESULTS FROM SAALBACH

WOMEN'S GIANT SLALOM: 1. P. Wiberg (Swe), 2:07.07; 2. U. Kaelin (Sui), 2:07.81; 3. T. Heggstad (Nor), 2:08.02; 4. V. Schneider (Ger), 2:08.07; 5. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.24; 6. A. H. H. (Sui), 2:08.24; 7. V. Schneider (Ger), 2:08.27; 8. I. Salomonson (Swe), 2:08.29; 9. K. Pank (Sui), 2:08.32; 10. K. Pank (Sui), 2:08.32; 11. B. Beck (Sui), 2:08.32; 12. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.32; 13. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.32; 14. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.32; 15. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.32; 16. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.32; 17. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.32; 18. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.32; 19. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.32; 20. C. Twardowska (Pol), 2:08.32.	
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Referee: R. Milford.

## ATHLETICS

## Christie is taken to the wire by Rosswess

By DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

LINCOLN Christie safely came through the first test of his indoor season, which he hopes will end in a world title double in March, by winning both sprint and Head Assurance AAA/WAAA championships at RAF Cosford yesterday. But the showman in him almost cost him dear.

Christie was lining past Michael Rosswess in the 60 metres, glancing across to show how in control he was, when he lifted up on the throttle too much. Rosswess, a Scot, dove to the line and Christie got the verdict only after recording the same time, 6.63sec, as his challenger.

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Referee: R. Milford.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Widnes build up challenge with treble from Offiah

By KEITH MACKLIN

Widnes 34 Wakefield Trinity 6

OMINOUS drums are sounding on Hunsberrside from Wigan and Widnes. Wigan's comfortable Saturday win over Hull Kingston Rovers was followed yesterday with a scintillating second half performance by Widnes to confirm that the challenge to Hull's leadership is gathering momentum.

Martin Offiah, who unaccountably failed to get on the score-sheet in the Widnes 60-point romp at Rochdale, sprinted to a second-half treble of tries, 34 for the season.

Widnes led 6-0 at halftime. McKenzie and David Hulme scoring the first half tries, but Widnes reserved their best moves for a second half flourish. McKenzie, with another quicksilver break from the acting halfback position, opened up the defence with a shrewd kick and the flying Offiah was there to apply the finishing touch.

Three minutes later Sorenson broke the Wakefield cover, and passed to Offiah. A shifty and acceleration left the challenging

HULL could thank two late tries, by Eastwood and Nolan, for pulling them clear of the treacherous Rochdale Hornets after the bottom club had put up spirited resistance at the Boulevard (Keith Macklin writes).

The Hornets produced the best try of the match. Whitfield started it and Abram's perfectly-timed pass sent away Garri for a superb length-of-the-field effort.

At Widdows, Bradford Northern brought Wakefield's run to an end and gained revenge for their Royal Trophy defeat. They held on to win 13-12 after being 12-2 up, with the balance being tilted by a Hobbs dropped goal and a missed penalty by Lyon.

St Helens emphasized the relegation gloom at Oldham with a 20-16 victory at Wakefield. After Oldham had taken a 6-0 lead with a fine try by Russell and a goal by Platt.

Sheffield Eagles appear doomed. They made a terrific debut against Featherstone Rovers at the Don Valley stadium, but lost narrowly.

STONES BUTTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Hull 24, Rochdale 24, Wakefield 24, Featherstone 24, Widdows 24, Bradford 24, St Helens 24, Wakefield 24, Rochdale 24, Hull 24.

Referee: R. Milford.

## IN BRIEF

## Edberg in disgrace

STEFAN Edberg, the world No. 2, lost all three matches in the four-time winners, Sweden, crashed 4-1 to Yugoslavia in the Davis Cup first round. Edberg's humiliation in Zagreb was completed by Goran Ivanisevic, who won 6-4, 6-2 despite playing with an injured knee.

Edberg did not play seriously after allegedly spending most of the previous night in a discotheque. Magnus Gustafsson, standing in for Jonas Svensson, who sprained his knee, was the same disco - gave Sweden their only success by beating Goran Prpic 6-2, 6-3.

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مركز لائفل



● CRICKET 29  
● RUGBY UNION 30  
● FOOTBALL: 32, 33

# SPORT

## Speedie makes a timely impact

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

Manchester United..... 1  
Liverpool..... 1

TWO former national captains committed elementary blunders at Old Trafford yesterday and prevented their clubs from gaining impetus in a championship race that promises to be closer than had been predicted. The errors of Glenn Hysen, of Sweden, and Liverpool, and Bryan Robson, of England and Manchester United, cancelled each other out.

So, on a wider scale, did the two sides. Liverpool, who lie behind Arsenal on goal difference and with a game in hand, were marginally the

### First division leaders

\*Arsenal..... P W D L F A Pts  
Liverpool..... 23 15 8 2 43 32 51  
Crystal Pal..... 24 14 9 4 34 23 48  
Leeds Utd..... 24 12 7 5 38 24 43  
\*Manchester U 24 11 9 5 37 25 40  
†deducted 2pts.  
†deducted 1pt.

more convincing in the first half. United, who are 11 points behind the leaders in fifth place, were the more threatening in the second.

The fine balance of the televised fixture revolved largely around two unlikely incidents. The first featured Hysen and his inexplicable reaction to a corner floated over by Lee Sharpe, the most productive source for United on the left flank, in the 26th minute.

Liverpool, deposed by Arsenal a fortnight ago, had until then given no indication that their comparatively unsuccessful sequence might continue. After dropping a



Going for goal: Speedie, Liverpool's new signing, was unsuccessful with this shot, made under challenge from Bruce, at Old Trafford yesterday

mere two points in their first 13 games, they had since collected only 13 from their last nine.

Steve McMahon had grazed the bar with a volley, extended Les Sealey with a drive, and United had been restricted to attempts from long range. But, in choosing to meet Sharpe's corner with his hand when under no visible pressure,

Hysen shoved the advantage in their favour.

Steve Nicol, curiously enough, had given them a similar helping hand at the end of October. He intervened unnecessarily during the Rumbelows Cup tie, Steve Bruce put United ahead, and the evening ended with Liverpool losing not only their place in the competition but also their unbeaten record.

Bruce, who had missed a penalty in the Rumbelows Cup replay against Southampton last month, scored his eighth of the season and United were momentarily a raging fire. Robson fanned the flames from another corner with a typically powerful header, which was parried athletically by Bruce Grobbelaar.

Yet United's leader in turn

doused them five minutes before the interval. Unopposed, he considered the possibilities near his own byline before striking his clearance directly at David Burrows standing halfway inside United's territory. Within a few seconds, to the benefit of David Speedie, Liverpool were level.

They still required the bemusing trickery of John Barnes to create the goal. He weaved his way through a queue of defenders which included Mike Phelan, Neil Webb, Robson, and Denis Irwin, before lofting a cross. Sealey, stretching, could do no more than shove the ball on to the left boot of the new Liverpool acquisition.

Within 40 minutes, Speedie, with a crisp volley at the far post, achieved more

than his partner during his whole career. In 22 attempts, Ian Rush has yet to score against United and he was never offered even the faintest opportunity of ending his extraordinarily prolonged run.

As well as protecting their own unbeaten sequence, which stretches back to the home defeat by Chelsea at the end of November, United fashioned enough openings to enhance the claims of their manager, Alex Ferguson believed that a victory would have thrust them back into genuine contention for the title.

Gary Ablett was principally responsible for holding them back. Although initially he did so illegitimately, and was booked for baulking Mark Hughes, he led Liverpool's

resistance. Apart from nodding a Hughes header off the line, he made several other crucial interventions in the closing stages.

The game ended amid controversy when Grobbelaar, advancing too far and finding himself stranded outside his own area, deliberately deflected Brian McClair's pass with his gloves. The crowd appealed for the Liverpool goalkeeper to be sent off, but the referee is not empowered to take such action for the offence.

"The ball was going to Mark Hughes," Ferguson said. "And it probably cost us the chance of a goal. They will be happy that he got only a yellow card." Yet Fifa's directive states specifically that a deliberate hand ball is not worthy of a red card.

## Robson may be back in charge

By STUART JONES

BRYAN Robson will probably return as the captain of England against Cameroon at Wembley on Wednesday. Three of his midfield colleagues have been withdrawn from the squad and Graham Taylor has chosen to bring in only one replacement, Gordon Cowans, of Aston Villa.

As well as David Platt, who was pulled out on Friday, Neil Webb and Steve McMahon were both injured in yesterday's fixture at Old Trafford. Taylor, who was watching on television, feared the worst when he saw the damage being inflicted.

Webb has pulled a hamstring and is expected to be out for at least three weeks. "I knew as soon as he went off that he would not be available," Taylor said yesterday. He also saw McMahon limping, because of a thigh strain, and was not surprised when he became another absentee.

The England manager is also concerned about the health of Paul Gascoigne, who was sent home from training on Friday with a temperature. "Tottenham Hotspur have kept us in touch and I expect him to report tomorrow. If not, I will probably bring in somebody else to replace him."

David Howells, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Mel Sterland, of Leeds United, have withdrawn from the England B squad against

Wales B at Swansea tomorrow while Scotland have also become victims of yesterday's match at Old Trafford, losing Brian McClair from Wednesday's match against the Soviet Union at Hampden Park.

Likewise, Wales have also been hit as the United pair, Mark Hughes and Clayton Blackmore, have both dropped out of their game against the Republic of Ireland at Wrexham.

Arsenal ran ends, page 32

## South Africa finds influential friends

From ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
PERTH

SOUTH Africa's return to Test cricket, a remote and fanciful notion only a year ago, may now be imminent, following positive weekend reaction to the radical political reforms being proposed in the country.

The prime minister of Australia, Bob Hawke, attended the fifth Ashes Test match here on Saturday and said that, if the dismantling of apartheid continued at the present rate, he would expect "that we could be playing against South Africa next year. If these things are done, I want them back as soon as possible."

His comments were seized upon as a suggestion that South Africa could participate in cricket's next World Cup, due to be staged in Australia

next spring, but this is impracticable on several counts, not least because the draw has already been made.

A more measured timescale was mooted yesterday by the president of the South African Cricket Board, which represents non-white cricketers. Krish Mackerdhuji, who is here for discussions with the Australian Cricket Board on the forthcoming merger of his organisation with the predominantly white South African Cricket Union, said: "When the process of change in our country is profound and irreversible, then we can talk about participation again. It is still hard to say when that will be."

Mackerdhuji revealed that the historic unification of South African cricket would advance another stage at a meeting on April 6. "We are formulating plans for a controlling body to be in place

by the end of June," he said. "When the Gating tour took place, we thought this was the end of hopes that we could come together. It turns out to have been a blessing in disguise because it brought a sense of rationalisation and sanity."

He said that acceptance of their progress by the International Cricket Council (ICC) was still being actively sought, hence his visit to Australia and a possible trip to England in the near future. Mackerdhuji is hoping that the ICC, who gave the merger a "cool" reception in Melbourne last month, will allow South Africa a long-delayed audience at its annual meeting in London during July.

South Africa have already been linked to possible rugby tours this year by Romania and the USSR and the game's authorities in Britain are likely

to welcome the possible resumption of relationships following President de Klerk's proposals (David Hands writes).

"We welcome developments in South Africa which must lead to a resumption of sporting contacts, earlier rather than later," Dudley Wood, secretary of the Rugby Football Union, said yesterday.

"There are discussions now about the lifting of sanctions, all of which must lead us to thinking about renewed contacts." The world's leading rugby nations are already committed this year, to the World Cup in October. But there is nothing that South Africa would enjoy more than the opportunity to play the winner of an event which they hope to host in 1995.

Perth Test report, page 29

## Olympics bid by London is still divided

By DAVID MILLER

THE bid by London to become a candidate to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000, divided into two camps, may founder on the same problem that beset Birmingham four years ago in its bid for 1992 — the shortsightedness of local politicians.

The two rival groups — London 2000, led by Sebastian Coe, and the committee of London Regional Councils — were frantically trying to find an acceptable mutual formula yesterday which would permit amalgamation and enable them to submit the single bid required under the terms of the British Olympic Association (BOA). The original deadline has been extended a week from January 31.

There will be a final attempt today at a meeting at the House of Commons initiated by Kate Hoey, the Labour MP. However, opinion was divided last night on whether a compromise was possible.

There are, at present, several flaws within the two bids. For example, it is considered improper that the Sports Council and the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), two national bodies, should have aligned themselves with bids prior to selection of a single British bid by the BOA. The Sports Council has supported the London councils and the CCPR has backed Coe.

Because the Sports Council is government funded, and the sports minister, Robert Atkins, should be neutral prior to the BOA's selection, Andy Sutcliffe, of the London Regional Sports Council, has suddenly been obliged to soften his support of the London councils.

The involvement of Peter Lawson, the general secretary of the CCPR, with London 2000, although approved by his executive committee, is not viewed kindly by the BOA. Lawson considers a British bid should be sports orientated, and took the decision to support Coe "in the interests of British sport".

Another flaw is the domestic political rivalry of the two

groups. The London councils, predominantly Labour controlled, is not willing to serve under the chairmanship of Coe, the Conservative candidate for Falmouth and Cambois, while the London 2000 group considers that it does not wish to repeat the scenario of the Birmingham bid — a committee over-dominated by city councillors seemingly ignorant of sport, both national and international.

Furthermore, the position of Hoey is also creating instability. Coe wisely considered it would assist all-party unity by involving a young Labour sports enthusiast with his committee. But Hoey's involvement has been criticised within the London councils group by Tom Pendry, another Labour MP and rival to Hoey for the position of sports minister should Labour win the next election.

There is also a divergence of opinion on whether to build new facilities or modernise those existing, the latter of which is similar to the Los Angeles programme in 1984 and is being advocated by the London 2000 group.

London 2000 considers it has won the approval of almost half the national governing body representatives on the BOA — those who will vote in April. It is also confident it has the backing of leading financial institutions which have promised commitment if London wins BOA approval.

Yet there is a body of opinion within the BOA, led by Sir Arthur Gold, the chairman, and George Nicholson, the fund-raising director, that any British bid, following the failure of Birmingham and Manchester, is a waste of their money — £60,000 was their contribution during Manchester's campaign for Seoul.

I think this is short-sighted. The promotion of British sport by a British bid, with money that would not otherwise be available, is invaluable for reminding the rest of the world that Britain is not a backwater, but the original home of many Olympic sports and still capable of playing an international role.

## RFU moves closer to understanding

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) will announce today its considered reaction to the events that followed England's match with Wales in Cardiff last month, when the team and management ignored the media. But of equal concern is the need for greater understanding between England players and officials.

Michael Pearey, the RFU president, admitted as much yesterday as he watched the national squad train at the Stoop Memorial ground. Though loath to give details of Friday's RFU executive committee meeting, Pearey said it was not unusual for the two sides of the game to misunderstand each other.

"We had a good exchange of views and we are moving forward faster than before," Pearey said. "But one of our dilemmas is that we don't know exactly what is happening in relation to the amateur regulations. The position will be clarified, it is my belief, after the International Board meeting in March."

Paul Thorburn, the Welsh captain, who went off with an

ankle injury at Murrayfield, is expected to be fit for the game against Ireland in Cardiff on February 16.

A group of former French rugby internationals, including Andre Boniface and Jean Gachassin, and the French racing driver, Jacques Lafitte, spent Friday night in police cells at Dublin after an incident at the city's airport (Peter Bills writes).

The group of nine had flown over on Friday night to see the Ireland-France international, in a private plane. There were signs, the local police said, that "drink had been taken". An airport bus, sent out to the plane to collect passengers, was commandeered by the Frenchmen and driven around the airport. Security officials eventually cornered the vehicle and the group were taken off for 12 hours overnight in the cells.

The police considered it was a case of high jinks and decided not to press charges. The French were released in time for the match.

Solace for Irish, page 30

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## Desert Orchid's career enters the twilight zone

By RICHARD EVANS

RETIREMENT for Desert Orchid is no longer a case of if, but a question of when. All the signs point to Boxing Day at Kempton Park in ten months' time when an unprecedented fifth victory in the King George VI Chase would provide a glorious finale to the horse's illustrious racing career.

The flying grey's supporters may be puzzled by discussion of his retirement coming so soon after Desert Orchid had responded visibly to the roar of an adoring crowd at Sandown Park on Saturday, where he won his 34th race, the Aga Diamond Chase. He may still be steeplechasing's king, but the years are beginning to tell and his reign is drawing to a close.

David Elsworth, the trainer of Desert Orchid, has a knack of knowing exactly how a horse feels in itself and its overall well-being.

### COMMENT

While the crowd hailed their hero in the winner's enclosure, the trainer's more subdued assessment was the clearest hint yet of retirement plans. "Today was hard work and it hurt a bit. It's getting harder. I don't enjoy it as much and I don't think he does," Elsworth said.

The race showed that the 12-year-old remains Britain's top chaser and that he deserves another attempt at the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March, for which he is generally 5-1 second favourite. Despite giving more than a stone in weight to each of his three rivals on Saturday, he would not be denied. However, Richard Dunwoody had to get after his mount vigorously in the final half-mile and confirmed afterwards that it was courage and hard work that won the day.

Richard Burridge, the principal owner of Desert Orchid, disclosed yesterday that a retirement plan for the horse has been in existence for more than a year.

"I am keeping the cards reasonably close to my chest but we have had the plan for some time," Burridge said. "So far there is no reason not to think we won't implement it. Racing is such an uncertain business, there is no need to tempt fate by announcing the plans too far in advance."

"We are trying to keep an eye on the horse and make sure we don't get carried away with any high-blown plans which obscure what the horse is telling us."

"At the moment he seems very well, but he is not going to be racing that much longer. We should enjoy races like Saturday's while we can. We are very keen to retire him, when we do eventually retire him, very close to the top."

Desert Orchid's trainer and owner have coped magnificently over the years with the additional pressure and attention thrust upon them. As Dunwoody pointed out after Saturday's race, Desert Orchid is a national institution.

Anyone doubting the wisdom of the National Hunt stage being deprived, sooner rather than later, of its greatest performer since Arkle, should reflect on Elsworth's sober analysis yesterday.

"I don't think he is quite as good as he was," he said. "He is still the best around these tracks but I am not sure he is at Cheltenham. We will find out in March. He had to take his coat off at Sandown. I think you will break him if you keep on giving him very hard races in the twilight of his days."

"It would be fair to him, and the right way to handle it, to be selective

about his races where the weights are not so unfavourable."

As a result, Desert Orchid will bypass the Racing Post Chase and the Whitbread Gold Cup, where his rivals would have big weight advantages. Cheltenham will be followed by a long summer break and, all being well, he would then return for his usual King George preparation at Wincanton and Sandown.

"You cannot anticipate or forecast how much of a decline it is or how long it will take for him to be 'retired'," Elsworth said. "We won't overtax his generous, battling qualities in the twilight days more than we have to. To keep his appetite alive, we will channel his qualities in the best direction with selective racing."

Surprise in Ireland, page 31